

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Friday, January 31, 2014



TRIPLE JEOPARDY

Amanda Knox's
Murder Conviction
Upheld On Appeal

Amanda Knox in Kobe Terrace Park in Seattle, Jan. 25, 2014. An appeals court in Florence on Thursday upheld the guilty verdict against Knox and her ex-boyfriend for the 2007 murder of her British roommate.

(Peter DiCampo/The New York Times)

FLORENCE, Italy (AP) — More than two years after Amanda Knox returned home to the U.S. a free woman, an Italian court Thursday reinstated her murder conviction in the stabbing of her roommate and increased her sentence to 28½ years in prison, raising the specter of a long, drawn-out extradition fight.

Knox, 26, received word of

the verdict in her hometown of Seattle. The former American exchange student called it unjust and said she was "frightened and saddened."

"This has gotten out of hand," Knox said in a statement. "Having been found innocent before, I expected better from the Italian justice system."

Lawyers for Knox and her ex-boyfriend Raffaele

Sollecito, who was also found guilty, vowed to appeal to Italy's highest court, a process that will take at least another year and drag out a seesaw legal battle that has fascinated court-watchers on both sides of the Atlantic.

After nearly 12 hours of deliberations Thursday, the appeals court in Florence reinstated the guilty

verdicts first handed down against Knox and Sollecito in 2009 for the slaying of British exchange student Meredith Kercher.

Those verdicts had been overturned in a second trial that ended in an acquittal in 2011, and Knox was released from prison after four years behind bars, returning to the United States. But Italy's highest court ordered a third trial.

The Florence court increased Knox's sentence from the original 26 years and handed Sollecito 25 years.

Kercher, 21, was found dead Nov. 2, 2007, in a pool of blood in the bedroom of the apartment she and Knox shared in the central Italian city of Perugia, where both were studying.

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Amanda Knox's murder conviction upheld

Continued from Front

Her throat had been slit and she was sexually assaulted. Knox and Sollecito denied any involvement in the killing, insisting they were at Sollecito's apartment that night, smoking marijuana, watching a movie and

request Knox's extradition before the verdict is final. If the conviction is upheld, a lengthy extradition process will probably ensue, with the U.S. State Department ultimately deciding whether to turn Knox back over to Italian authorities to serve her sentence. Her lawyers are likely to argue that she is the victim of

"It is very troubling that Amanda and her family have had to endure this process for so many years," she said in a statement. "I will continue to closely monitor this case as it moves forward through the Italian legal system." Sollecito's lawyers said they were stunned by the conviction. "There isn't a



A woman believed to be Amanda Knox, center, is hidden under a jacket while being escorted from her mother's home to a car by family members, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014, in Seattle. An appeals court in Florence on Thursday upheld the guilty verdict against Knox and her ex-boyfriend for the 2007 murder of her British roommate.

making love. Prosecutors originally argued that Kercher was killed in a drug-fueled sex game gone awry — an accusation that gave the case a lurid cast that fascinated the European tabloids. But at the third trial, prosecutors argued instead that the violence stemmed from arguments between roommates Knox and Kercher about cleanliness and was triggered by a toilet left unflushed by the third defendant in the case, Rudy Guede.

Guede, who is from the Ivory Coast, was convicted in a separate trial and is serving a 16-year sentence for the murder.

Legal experts have said it is unlikely that Italy would

double jeopardy, because she was retried after an acquittal. Many Americans are quite astonished by the ups and downs in this case," said Mary Fan, a former federal prosecutor who teaches at the University of Washington Law School in Seattle. But Fan said U.S. courts have previously held that being acquitted and then convicted of a crime in another country is not a legal bar to extradition.

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, a Democrat from Knox's home state of Washington, said she was "very concerned and disappointed" by the verdict and confident the appeal would re-examine the decision.

shred of proof," attorney Luca Maori said.

Kercher's brother and sister were in the courtroom for the verdict and said the outcome was the best they could have hoped for.

"It's hard to feel anything at the moment because we know it will go to a further appeal," said her brother, Lyle Kercher. "No matter what the verdict was, it never was going to be a case of celebrating anything."

In his closing arguments, Knox's lawyer, Dalla Vedova, had told the court he was "serene" about the verdict because he believed the only conclusion from the files was "the innocence of Amanda Knox." □

(AP Photo)

CARIBBEAN NEWS BRIEFS

Rastafarians claiming historic land

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — About 100 Rastafarians have rallied in Jamaica's capital to lay claim to a site where a founding father of the movement once led a flourishing community. Rastas are fighting to keep a developer from building on a hilltop in southern Jamaica dubbed "Pinnacle," where Leonard P. Howell founded the first Rastafarian settlement 70 years ago. About 4,500 Rastafarians once lived there, but the community was destroyed by police and British colonial officials in 1954. The site is considered sacred to Rastas. □

Haiti: Emergency landing injures 1

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haitian police said on Thursday that a small plane piloted by a U.S. citizen suffered mechanical problems and made an emergency landing in a field of bananas in Haiti. Police inspector Joachin Antoine said that pilot Practor Antoine was treated for unspecified injuries at a hospital in the capital. A passenger named John Michael was not injured. The aircraft, bound for Port-au-Prince, went down Wednesday night just outside Cabaret, a coastal town northwest of the capital, Antoine said. □

Trinidad battles landfill fire, smoke

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — A burning landfill is sending smoke across parts of Trinidad's capital. That's forcing some schools and businesses to close on Thursday. Officials say they have temporarily closed the landfill near Port-of-Spain. The fire began on Sunday and has forced dozens of people to seek medical treatment for asthma and other problems. The Environmental Management Authority says the fire caused particulates in the air near the landfill to reach 13 times the level considered acceptable. It says the fire was set on purpose. □

\$3M in coke seized off Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Three men in Puerto Rico have been charged with conspiring to import 136 kilograms (300 pounds) of cocaine worth an estimated \$3.5 million. U.S. Attorney Rosa Emilia Rodriguez says authorities seized the drugs about 60 miles (97 kilometers) off the coast of the northwest town of Aguadilla. She said Thursday that the men were aboard a 20-foot (six-meter) boat that was sinking when the U.S. Coast Guard spotted it. Drugs are frequently transported through Caribbean islands on their way to other destinations. □

Group lands \$18M to help Haitians

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A humanitarian group has received \$18 million from Canada to help Haitians displaced by the 2010 earthquake return to their old neighborhoods. The International Organization for Migration said this week in a statement that the money will target some 53,000 people. A portion of the money will help cover their rent for a year. The camps in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince were selected because they are at risk of eviction or are located in schools. Haiti once had as many as 1.5 million people living in encampments. □

Henry Waxman, 20-term democrat, is leaving House

JONATHAN WEISMAN

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CAMBRIDGE, Md. - Rep. Henry A. Waxman, D-Calif., whose 40 years in the House produced some of the most important legislation of the era, announced Thursday that he would retire at the end of the year. Waxman, 74, joins a growing list of House members who are calling it quits, many in disappointment over the partisanship and ineffectiveness of a Congress that may end up as the least productive in history.

"It's been frustrating because of the extremism of Tea Party Republicans," Waxman said in an interview Wednesday. "Nothing seems to be happening."

The frustration is felt on both sides. More than 30 House members have announced that they will retire, resign or run for other offices this year, including stalwarts like George Miller, D-Calif.; Tom Latham, R-Iowa; Frank R. Wolf, R-Va.; and Howard P. McKeon, R-Calif., chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

Waxman's departure after 20 terms in the House will be particularly poignant. One of his most notable accomplishments, the Affordable Care Act, which he was instrumental in writing, is shaping up as the centerpiece of campaigns all over the country, not as a triumph but as a Republican cudgel. And the expansion of Medicaid that he has championed has been challenged in a number of states run by Republican governors.

The bill to combat climate change that he wrote was passed by the House in 2009 but died in the Senate, and President Barack Obama has given up on efforts to push it through. Waxman has also spent years trying to strengthen the powers of the Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency, but those efforts are under fire from the Republicans who control the House.

Still, Waxman will leave behind a legacy of entrenched accomplishments, including the Children's Health Insurance Program, which extends coverage to millions of low-income children; anti-tobacco, food safety and food-labeling laws; and the Ryan White Care Act, which allocates billions of dollars in federal money for the treatment of HIV and AIDS.

He is also credited with having laid the foundation for many of the executive actions that Obama, during his State of the Union address Tuesday, pledged to pursue. One involves the Clean Air Act, which Waxman helped write and which gives the Environmental Protection Agency the authority it is now exercising to regulate power plant emissions of greenhouse gases. Waxman saw to it that the bill would allow the president, on his own,

to order improvements in automobile fuel efficiency and other energy saving efforts.

Waxman - whose 33rd Congressional District hugs the Southern California

coast and includes Malibu, Beverly Hills and Santa Monica - has long been a House leader. For five years beginning in 1979, he was chairman of the Energy and Commerce

subcommittee on health and the environment. He often butted heads on environmental issues with the chairman of the full committee, John D. Dingell of Michigan. □



Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), right, speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington. Waxman, a diminutive Democratic giant whose 40 years in the House produced some of the most important legislation of the era, will announce on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014, that he is retiring at the end of the year.

(Gabriella Demczuk/The New York Times)

Navy admiral is Obama's pick to take reins of NSA

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Navy admiral is President Barack Obama's choice to be the next head of the National Security Agency, which is embroiled in controversy over its secret surveillance programs and massive collection of phone and Internet data. Vice Adm. Mike Rogers, the head of the Navy's Cyber Command and a former intelligence director for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is being appointed to lead the NSA, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced Thursday. Rogers also is being nominated to get a fourth star and head U.S. Cyber Command.

Rogers, who replaces Army Gen. Keith Alexander at the NSA, comes into the job facing the challenge of revamping the way the agency collects and stores its data. Alexander plans to retire in mid-March.

The NSA has been rocked by former analyst Edward Snowden's disclosures detailing widespread sur-

veillance programs that have swept up the phone records of hundreds of millions in the U.S. Rogers has long been considered the heir apparent

erty in our digital age." "This is a critical time for the NSA, and Vice Admiral Rogers would bring extraordinary and unique qualifications to this posi-

telligence James Clapper described Rogers in a statement as a dedicated intelligence officer "who deeply understands signals intelligence and cyber operations, which makes him uniquely qualified to lead the NSA and U.S. Cyber Command missions."

Rogers' nomination to head Cyber Command requires Senate confirmation. The NSA job does not, but it will undoubtedly come up at the Cyber Command hearing, as lawmakers air their frustrations with the agency's data collection program and demand that he lay out his vision for how the NSA will move forward.

The White House has said it intends to continue having one commander oversee the NSA and Cyber Command, despite suggestions that the jobs should be split due to concerns that the lines have blurred between the two powerful posts. Both jobs are based at Fort Meade, Maryland. □



This photo shows Vice Adm. Michael Rogers. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel is announcing that Rogers, the head of the Navy's Cyber Command, has been chosen to be the next chief of the troubled National Security Agency. Rogers, also a former intelligence director for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is being nominated to replace Army Gen. Keith Alexander.

(AP Photo/U.S. Navy)

for the job. In a statement Thursday, Hagel said he is confident that Rogers "has the wisdom to help balance the demands of security, privacy and lib-

eration as the agency continues its vital mission and implements President Obama's reforms," Hagel said.

Director of National In-

US prosecutors seek execution of marathon suspect

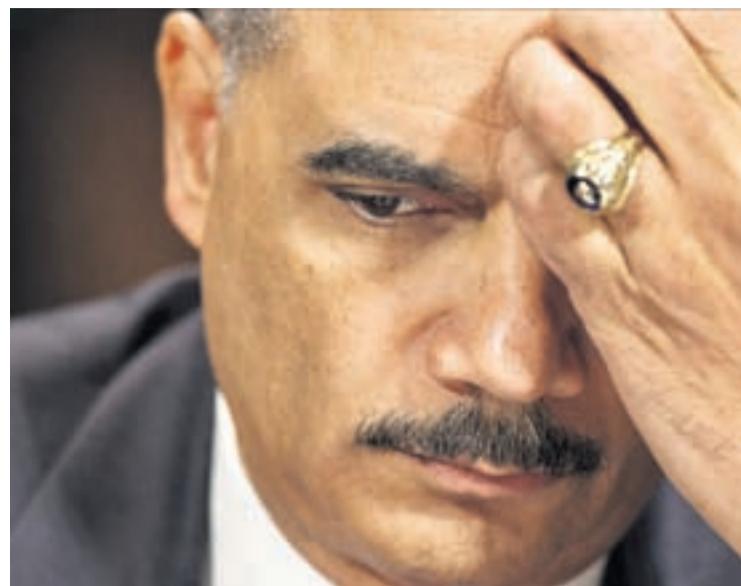
DENISE LAVOIE

AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON (AP) — U.S. prosecutors on Thursday announced they will seek the death penalty against 20-year-old Dzhokhar Tsarnaev in the Boston Marathon bombing, accusing him of betraying his adopted country by ruthlessly carrying out a terrorist attack calculated to cause maximum carnage.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder's decision to press for Tsarnaev's execution was widely expected. The twin blasts last April killed three people and wounded more than 260, and over half the 30 federal charges against Tsarnaev — including using a weapon of mass destruction to kill — carry a possible death sentence.

"The nature of the conduct at issue and the resultant harm compel this decision," Holder said in a state-



Attorney General Eric Holder pauses while testifying on Capitol Hill in Washington, before the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing oversight hearing on the Justice Department.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

ment of just two terse and dispassionate sentences that instantly raised the stakes in one of the most wrenching criminal cases Boston has ever seen.

Tsarnaev has pleaded not

guilty. No trial date has been set.

In a notice of intent filed in court, federal prosecutors in Boston listed factors they contend justify a sentence of death against Tsarnaev,

who moved to the U.S. from Russia about a decade ago.

"Dzhokhar Tsarnaev received asylum from the United States; obtained citizenship and enjoyed the freedoms of a United States citizen; and then betrayed his allegiance to the United States by killing and maiming people in the United States," read the notice filed by U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz.

Prosecutors also cited Tsarnaev's "lack of remorse" and allegations that he killed a Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) police officer as well as an 8-year-old boy, a "particularly vulnerable" victim because of his age. They also said Tsarnaev committed the killings after "substantial planning and premeditation."

In addition, they cited his alleged decision to target the Boston Marathon, "an

iconic event that draws large crowds of men, women and children to its final stretch, making it especially susceptible to the act and effects of terrorism."

Tsarnaev's lawyers had no immediate comment.

In an interview with ABC, Tsarnaev's mother, Zubeidat, who lives in Russia, said: "How can I feel about this? I feel nothing. I can tell you one thing, that I love my son. I will always feel proud of him. And I keep loving him."

Prosecutors allege Tsarnaev, then 19, and his 26-year-old brother, ethnic Chechens from Russia, built and planted two pressure-cooker bombs near the finish line of the race to retaliate against the U.S. for its military actions in Muslim countries. The older brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, died in a shootout with police during a getaway attempt days after the bombing. □

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Obama orders review of US job training programs

PETER BAKER

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WAUKESHA, Wis. - President Barack Obama on Thursday ordered a review of federal job training pro-

gress" agenda from his State of the Union address, Obama visited a General Electric gas engine plant in this Milwaukee suburb and signed an executive

are doing what they should be doing," Obama told workers after taking a tour of the heavy equipment wearing plastic goggles. "We've got to move away

among the ideas announced by Obama in his speech Tuesday night as he sought to use his executive authority to advance his priorities in the face of longstanding Republican opposition. The president presented the review as an example of how he would not let Congress stop him from making progress.

"I want to work with them, but I can't wait for them," Obama said. "We've got too much work to do."

He added: "There are a lot of folks who don't have time to wait for Congress. They need to learn new skills right now."

House Republicans called the training review an example of Obama's go-it-alone refusal to work with them, noting that they

have already passed legislation intended to overhaul job training programs, but that the bill has not been taken up in the Senate by Harry Reid, D-Nev., the majority leader. They also noted that the Government Accountability Office conducted its own review of federal training programs.

"Mr. President, we agree and we don't believe we need to wait," Republicans said in a letter sent to Obama on Thursday and signed by Speaker John A. Boehner of Ohio and three other House leaders: Reps. Eric Cantor of Virginia, Kevin McCarthy of California and Cathy McMorris Rodgers of Washington.

"If you want action," the letter said, "we respectfully request that you or the



President Barack Obama discusses efforts to provide students with better real-world skills, at McGavock High School in Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 30, 2014. The visit, part of a two-day tour focused on economic issues, was preceded by trips to Maryland, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, where he signed an executive order to review federal job training programs in need of modernization.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

grams in hopes of finding ways to better prepare Americans for a rapidly changing workplace. As he continued a four-state tour promoting the "with or without Con-

memorandum designating Vice President Joe Biden to come up with ways to improve government training.

"We've got a lot of programs, but not all of them

from what my labor secretary, Tom Perez, calls 'train and pray' - you train workers first, and then you hope they get a job. We can't do that."

The Biden review was



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Solid growth brightens US economic outlook for 2014

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — American consumers will spend more. Government will cut less. Businesses will invest more. And more companies will hire. Add it all up, and you can see why expectations

report lifted hopes that the economy will be able to withstand turmoil in emerging economies, a pullback in the Fed's stimulus and mounting risks to the U.S. stock market over the next 12 months. Americans struggling with

ing in three years. "The economy showed real signs of momentum at the end of 2013," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at Mesirow Financial. "We are better positioned for decent growth for 2014 than we were a year ago."

1.9 percent, weaker than the 2.8 percent increase in 2012, the Commerce Department said Thursday. Growth was held back by higher taxes and federal spending cuts that kicked in early in 2013.

A budget deal Congress approved earlier this month halted tens of billions in additional spending cuts that were due to kick in this year. With that drag diminished, many economists think growth could top 3 percent in 2014. That would be the best showing since the recession ended in mid-2009.

The strength in consumer spending last quarter was driven by purchases of both durable goods — products such as cars, computers and communications equipment — and nondurable goods like clothing. Spending on services also rose strongly.

In addition, businesses invested in more equipment. There was also strength from a shrinking trade deficit. Spending on home construction declined, though. And government spending fell at a 4.9 percent rate last quarter, led by a plunge in federal spending. That was a result, in part, of the government's 16-day partial shutdown during October. The shutdown shrank fourth-quarter growth by about 0.3 percentage point, the government said.

Many global investors fear that the Fed's pullback

in its bond purchases will raise U.S. interest rates and cause investors to shift money out of emerging markets and into the United States for higher returns. Currency values in emerging economies have fallen over that concern.

In response, central banks in emerging economies, from India to Turkey to South Africa, have been acting to counter any damage from the Fed's pullback and the prospect of higher U.S. rates. They've been raising their own rates, hoping to control inflation, lift their flagging currencies and keep investors from fleeing. In Argentina, consumer prices are soaring, the treasury is short on foreign currency, and the peso has suffered its sharpest slide in 12 years. It's possible the turmoil in those countries could spill into developed economies such as the United States'. Overseas demand for U.S. goods might suffer, for example. Investors might abandon stocks globally, including in American markets. But most analysts think the improving U.S. economy will manage to withstand any damage that might spread from overseas.

"I don't think the (U.S. economy) is terribly vulnerable, assuming it doesn't rock financial markets in a deep way," said Joshua Feinman, global chief economist with Deutsche Asset and Wealth Management. □



A pedestrian passes by sale signs on a store front window in Chicago. American consumers will spend more. Government will cut less. Businesses will invest more. And more companies will hire. Add it all up, and you can see why expectations are rising that 2014 will be the best year for the U.S. economy since the recession ended 4½ years ago.

(AP Photo/Kiichiro Sato)

are rising that 2014 will be the best year for the U.S. economy since the recession ended 4½ years ago. That's why the Federal Reserve is pressing ahead with a plan to scale back its economic stimulus.

The optimists got a boost Thursday from a government report that showed consumers fueled solid economic growth in the final quarter of 2013. The

long-term unemployment and stagnant pay might not get relief anytime soon. And areas such as manufacturing, construction and home sales remain far from full health. Still, the outlook for the economy as a whole brightened after the government said growth reached a 3.2 percent annual rate last quarter on the strength of the strongest consumer spend-

Consumer spending surged in the October-December quarter at an annual rate of 3.3 percent — the best pace since 2010 and a big jump from the 2 percent growth rate of the previous quarter. Consumer spending is particularly important because it accounts for about 70 percent of the economy.

For 2013 as a whole, the economy grew a tepid

US Financial Front:

Applications for jobless benefits rise; trend remains low



Job seekers sign in before meeting prospective employers during a career fair at a hotel in Dallas. Labor Department released weekly jobless claims on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014.

(AP Photo/LM Otero)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Weekly applications for U.S. unemployment benefits rose 19,000 last week to 348,000, the highest in about a month. But the broader trend in applications remains low. The Labor Department says

that the four-week average, a less volatile measure, increased just 750 to 333,000. The increase follows three weeks of declines.

The average is close to pre-recession levels and suggests that, despite last

Fewer signed contracts to buy US homes in December

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fewer Americans signed contracts to buy previously occupied homes in December, suggesting a slowdown in real estate. Pending home sales fell to the lowest point since October 2011.

The National Association of Realtors said its seasonally adjusted pending home sales index dropped 8.7 percent last month to 92.4. That's the seventh straight monthly decline for the index, which previews upcoming sales. A one- to two-month lag usually exists between a signed contract and a completed sale.

Rising mortgage rates and price increases crimped sales in recent months. Cold weather in December also stalled home purchases.

"People are disinclined to go house-hunting in se-

vere weather conditions," said Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics. "We expect something of a rebound in January, but this month's cold weather means it is unlikely all the ground lost will be recovered."

Last month's decline was so steep that it led to a year-over-year drop of 8.8 percent. The number of signed contracts tumbled in the Northeast, Midwest, South and West in December.

Still, the housing market benefited from historically low mortgage rates for much of 2013.

Sales of previously occupied homes totaled 5.1 million last year, the trade group said last week. That's the highest in seven years, but it's still below the 5.5 million that is consistent with a healthy housing market. □

week's rise, layoffs remain low.

Last week's figure may also have been pushed up by cold weather, which can cause construction firms to stop work.

"We expect claims to head back below the 330,000 mark over the next few weeks," said Ian Shepherdson, an economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, a forecasting firm.

Hiring will need to pick up to reduce the unemployment rate, which is still high at 6.7 percent. Employers added just 74,000 jobs in December, the fewest in three years and far below the average of 214,000 added in the previous four months.

Most economists forecast that hiring will rebound in January to roughly the 185,000 average monthly gains of the past two years. The unemployment rate fell in December to 6.7 percent from 7 percent.

Much of the decline was due to the fact that 347,000 unemployed people stopped looking for work. Once people without jobs stop trying to find one, they're no longer counted as unemployed.

About 3.6 million people received benefits in the week ended Jan. 11, the latest data available. That's about 123,000 fewer than the previous week. That total has fallen 39 percent in the past year. □

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Who's Bad?

Bieber vs. Ford: Canada's favorite bad boys

C. NORONHA

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Pop star Justin Bieber is giving Toronto Mayor Rob Ford a brief respite as Canada's favorite bad boy and butt of all jokes.

Ford has admitted smoking crack while in a drunken stupor and is being sued for supposedly orchestrating the jailhouse beating of his sister's ex-boyfriend. The 19-year-old teen idol is facing the equivalent of a misdemeanor assault charge. "It's a change from the Rob Ford show," said 14-year-old Jon Bullock, who braved glacial tempera-

tures to catch a glimpse of the star as he turned himself in at a Toronto police station Wednesday evening to face charges over an altercation with a limousine driver in late December.

The incident, which comes on the heels of Bieber's Miami arrest while apparently drag racing and driving under the influence of alcohol, marijuana and prescription drugs, is the latest to sully the image of the singer who has been drawing more attention for his brushes with the law than for his music.

For now at least, Bieber has

eclipsed Ford as fodder for late-night comedy talk-shows on both sides of the border.

"He had to fly to Toronto to turn himself in. Boy, this kid is really on a crime spree. He's become a menace to society. I liked him better when he was just a menace to music," said TV comedian Jimmy Kimmel. "By the way, when you have Justin Bieber and Rob Ford together in the same place it's like Gotham City got attacked by the Joker and the Penguin at once."

Others feel a comparison with Laurel and Hardy more appropriate.

On Wednesday, former Globe and Mail reporter Steve Ladurantaye tweeted an image of Bieber and Ford decked out to resemble the classic comedy duo. "Seems as good a time as ever to look at this picture again," Ladurantaye, who now works for Twitter Canada, said in the tweet.

Even some members of the Toronto city council — all too familiar with Mayor Ford's foibles — were compelled to weigh-in on the battle of the country's bad boys.

"Both Justin Bieber and Mayor Ford need to get their lives together," said Toronto City Councilor Joe Mihevc on Thursday on the sidelines of a council meeting. Amidst all the hullabaloo, it's perhaps not surprising the Toronto mayor has rushed to Bieber's defense. "He's a young guy. I wish I was as successful as he was. He's 19 years old. Think about when you were 19," Ford opined during one of his regular call-in appearances on a Washington D.C. radio show called The Sports Junkies.

Beyond the jokes, however, there's a sense of embarrassment, damaged pride and the feeling that Bieber and Ford are behaving in way that's just not Canadian.

"Canada has always been considered this polite place. People like Sarah McLachlan and Shania Twain have fulfilled that



This photo shows Canadian musician Justin Bieber being swarmed by media and police officers as he turns himself in to city police for an expected assault charge, in Toronto. Bieber is giving Toronto Mayor Rob Ford a brief respite as Canada's favorite bad boy and butt of all jokes. But the comparison may not be a fair one. The 19-year-old teen idol is facing the equivalent of a misdemeanor assault charge. Ford has admitted smoking crack while in a drunken stupor and is being sued for supposedly orchestrating the jailhouse beating of his sister's ex-boyfriend.

(AP Photo/Nathan Denette)

stereotype as seemingly nice, friendly people who don't get into a lot of trouble," said Joshua Ostroff, the Huffington Post Canada's pop culture columnist and senior editor.

Ostroff said the Canadian rapper Drake got it right when he joked a couple of weeks ago on Saturday Night Live that Toronto is the kind of place where rappers are nice and the mayor smokes crack.

"It was a great joke because it's absolutely true. Drake is the kind of rapper you expect Canada to produce and Bieber is acting counter to our stereotypes," Ostroff said.

But Ostroff worries that lumping Ford and Bieber together threatens to trivialize the mayor's actions.

"The people Ford has been associated with have been accused of murder. Bieber has been an idiot like many 19-year-old boys. He egged a house. He maybe drag raced after having

a beer, they are all dumb things and he deserves to be pilloried for it but comparatively, he's not an adult, he's not the mayor of North America's fourth largest city and he's not actually hanging out with gangsters and the mayor of Toronto is," he said.

A side-effect of Bieber's scuffles with the law has been to remind Americans that the teen idol is not a U.S. citizen.

Advocacy groups, acutely aware of how less famous immigrants are treated upon arrest in the United States, have started an online petition with over 100,000 signatures demanding that the Obama administration "deport Justin Bieber and revoke his green card."

They point out that were Bieber an American citizen, a conviction for driving under the influence or assault would be enough to get him deemed inadmissible to Canada. □

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US chides Syria on missed chemical arms deadlines

RICK GLADSTONE

THOM SHANKER

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Angered over a missed deadline in Syria's pledge to export its chemical weapons, the United States criticized the government of President Bashar Assad on Thursday, accusing him of stalling their removal and - in a new complaint - weakening the country's promise to destroy the 12 facilities that produced them.

The criticisms, expressed by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and the U.S. ambassador to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Hague-based group helping oversee the elimination of the Syrian arsenal, contrasted with the diplomatic decorum that had prevailed since the operation

began more than three months ago. Until January, after the first deadline was missed, the Syrian government had been widely praised for its cooperation. The criticisms by the U.S. ambassador, Robert P. Mikulak, in a statement presented at the organization's executive council meeting at The Hague, were particularly blunt and specific. They were posted on the State Department's website - another message that the United States wanted its criticism known outside the executive council's chambers. Mikulak said that, since the executive council's last meeting Jan. 8, "the effort to remove chemical agent and key precursor chemicals from Syria has seriously languished and stalled." He said that only about

4 percent of the roughly 1,200 tons of chemicals, half of them especially

dangerous, had been exported from the Syrian port of Latakia - the first public

not exported from Latakia until Jan. 7. The entire stockpile is supposed to



Crew aboard the frigate Helge Ingstad, which will transport chemical agents from Syria, take part in an exercise off the coast of Cyprus. A shipment of 15 to 20 tons of chemical weapons agents, the second so far, was picked up from Syria on Monday, but the slow pace of the handover has unsettled the international organization running the fleet to transport and eventually destroy the weapons.

(Marthe Brenedur/The New York Times)

Cameron: UK has shrugged off NSA leaks

LONDON (AP)—Prime Minister David Cameron said Thursday he believes the British public has largely shrugged off the espionage disclosures of former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden, telling lawmakers that people seem to be satisfied that U.K. spies are doing their jobs.

The editor of Britain's Guardian newspaper, which played a critical role in bringing Snowden's revelations to light, said recently that there had been "barely a whisper" from British politicians about the disclosures. Alan Rusbridger contrasted Britain's political response to the impassioned debate in the United States — where intelligence chiefs have repeatedly been summoned to Congress, lawmakers

have called for an end to domestic surveillance and top officials have proposed reforms to the NSA's work. Cameron, however, suggested Thursday that Britons simply weren't that upset.

"I don't think Snowden's had an enormous public impact," he told Parliament. "I think the public reaction, as I judge it, has not been one of: 'Shock! Horror!' It's been much more: 'Intelligence agencies carry out intelligence work. Good.'"

Cameron had been fielding questions from lawmakers about whether the leaks — which exposed mass surveillance activities by the NSA and its British counterpart, GCHQ — had shaken public confidence in Britain's intelligence agencies. □

Cameron said he believed the agencies' oversight was "robust," but added: "I don't rule out trying to improve it." □

disclosure of how much remains in the country.

Under Syria's pledge to renounce the weapons, the most dangerous chemicals were supposed to be exported for eventual destruction at sea Dec. 31, but the first shipment was

be exported by Feb. 6, a deadline that many non-proliferation experts anticipate will be violated.

Mikulak said Syrian demands for additional equipment needed to transport the chemicals were without merit. □



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Ukraine leader's sick leave prompts guessing game



Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych speaks during a press conference in Kiev, Ukraine. Yanukovych is taking sick leave on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014, as the country's political crisis continues without signs of resolution.

(AP Photo/Mykhailo Markiv)

JIM HEINTZ

MARIA DANIOVA

Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Amid the deepest turmoil since

the Orange Revolution, President Viktor Yanukovych's announcement Thursday that he was taking indefinite sick leave

prompted a guessing game among Ukrainians about what was happening to their country.

Debate raged on whether he was just sick or whether he was leaving the lime-light in preparation for something, possibly either cracking down or stepping down. Yanukovych has faced two months of major protests that sometimes paralyze central Kiev and have spread to other cities. The protests started after he backed out of a long-awaited agreement to deepen ties with the European Union in favor of Russia, but quickly came to encompass a wide array of discontent over corruption, heavy-handed police and dubious courts.

The official line is that the 63-year-old Yanukovych has an acute respiratory illness and a high fever. But the opposition isn't buying it. Some say he is looking for an excuse to avoid further discussions with opposition leaders, which have done nothing to resolve the tensions.

Vitali Klitschko, a leading opposition figure, has a more ominous theory — the president could be pretending to take himself out of action in preparation for imposing a state of emergency. That has been a persistent worry of the opposition since violent clashes two weeks ago killed three protesters.

"I remember from the Soviet Union it's a bad sign — a bad sign because always if some Soviet Union leaders have to make an unpopular decision, they go to the hospital," Klitschko said. Yanukovych's press office says the president is still in charge of the country, but there was no indication of how long he might be on leave or how much work he would be able to do. He isn't known to have serious health problems, although his office says he has taken sick leave twice before — once for a knee problem and the other time also for a respiratory illness.

One political commentator suggested the announcement could be

a ruse to take him out of power, as in the attempted coup against Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in 1991. "I don't remember official statements on Viktor Yanukovych's colds. But I remember well, when on Aug. 19, 1991, the vice president of the USSR, Gennady Yanayev, announced the serious illness of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev," Vitaly Portnikov wrote on his Facebook page.

Still, others took the announcement at face value. Analyst Mykhailo Pohrebinsky noted that Yanukovych had made a late-night visit to parliament amid tense discussions on Wednesday and "those who were close to him said he really was very pale and exhausted." Hours after the government announced his sick leave, Yanukovych issued a statement to upbraid his political foes, saying "the opposition continues to escalate the situation and urges people to stand in the frost for the sake of the political ambitions of several of its leaders."

Egypt arrests 11 Islamists for Facebook activity

MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian authorities arrested 11 Muslim Brotherhood members accused of running Facebook pages that incite violence against the police, expanding a crackdown on followers of ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi to include social media. The arrests Wednesday and Thursday are a sign that after largely crippling the group in a wave of arrests and killings of protesters, security agencies are going after younger members using the Internet to keep protests alive — and looking for evidence of links to

a growing insurgency and violent backlash.

Bombings and drive-by shootings targeting police officers have accelerated in retaliation for the killings and jailing of Brotherhood members and other Islamists.

The attacks have been claimed by an al-Qaida-inspired militant group, but the government accuses Morsi's Brotherhood of orchestrating the violence and has branded it a terrorist group — an accusation the group denies.

The police online pursuit raises concerns that the fear of attacks could be used as a pretext for impos-

ing heavier restrictions on the freedom of the Internet, a major outlet for expression after the military-backed interim government extended the crackdown to silence other forms of dissent, with the arrests of leading secular activists. According to the privately-owned Al-Shorouk newspaper, the government is preparing a new anti-terrorism law that criminalizes websites that promote "ideas or beliefs calling for use of force or violence."

The bill, drafted by the Justice Ministry, called for penalties of no less than five years in prison for those creating such sites.

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Militants assault government building in Baghdad

SINAN SALAHEDDIN

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Gunmen and suicide bombers staged a brazen assault on

Government troops are trying to oust al-Qaida-linked fighters and their allies from cities in the area.

At least six gunmen were

least one employee and a policeman killed in the attack, but gave no details on how they died.

Troops sealed off the area



Tribal fighters supported by Iraqi security forces patrol in Ramadi, 70 miles (115 kilometers) west of Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014. Since late December, members of Iraq's al-Qaida branch have taken over parts of Ramadi, capital of the largely Sunni province of Anbar. They also control the center of the nearby city of Fallujah. Government forces and allied tribes have been trying to wrest control back from the militants.

(AP Photo)

a government building in Baghdad on Thursday, officials said, killing two people in the latest such attack in the heart of the Iraqi capital by militants trying to undermine further the Shiite-led government's shaky authority.

The firefight at a state-run transportation company was one of several attacks that left 11 dead across the city, and came as Iraq grapples with a stubborn insurgency in the country's western Anbar province.

involved in Thursday's attack, said Interior Ministry spokesman Saad Maan Ibrahim. The attackers stormed the state-run Company for Transportation in Baghdad's Canal Street, where numerous government offices are located.

The police shot and killed four of the militants inside the building while the other two blew themselves up at the entrance, Maan said. He also said that the stand-off ended with at

as armored vehicles rushed to the scene. At least one military helicopter was seen hovering overhead. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks. But coordinated and brazen attacks against Shiites, security forces and government buildings are frequently the work of al-Qaida's affiliate in Iraq, which has been emboldened by the successes of its fellow militants in the civil war next door in Syria and by widespread

Sunni anger at the government.

Last year, insurgents — some of them suicide bombers — unleashed a large and carefully planned assault on the Iraqi Justice Ministry that included car bombs and gunmen disguised as po-

lice, killing at least 24 people.

In that attack, for which al-Qaida took credit, about six gunmen wearing police uniforms stormed the ministry's building and one-hour battle erupted between the intruders and the security force. □

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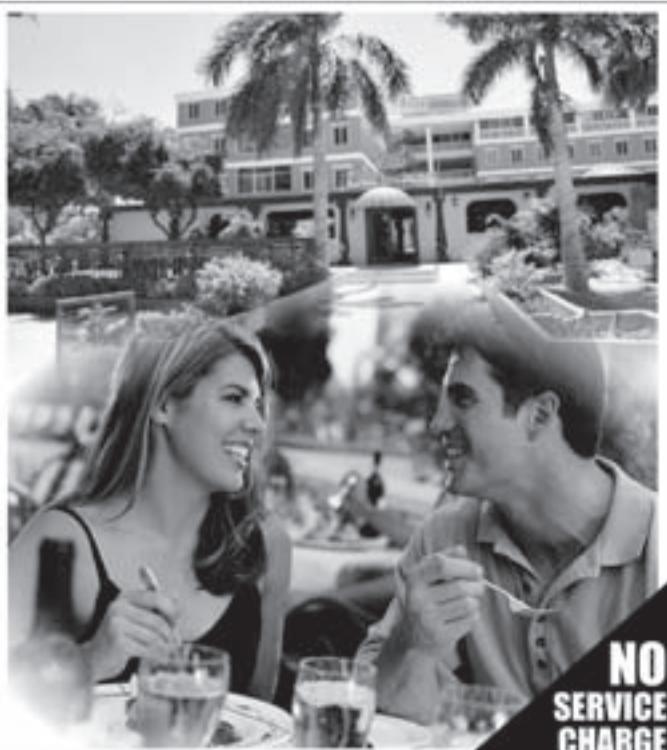
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Leaders line up to visit Fidel Castro during Cuba summit

PETER ORSI
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Fidel Castro has lived mostly out of the public eye since a near-fatal illness in 2006 forced his retirement after nearly five decades at the helm of Cuba.

This week he had his busiest social calendar in years as nearly a dozen world leaders attending a regional summit in Havana stopped in to pay their respects to — and have their picture taken with — the man considered the godfather of the Latin American left.

Photos of the encounters taken by Castro's photographer son Alex show a gray-bearded, elderly man, seemingly alert and animated. The conversations reportedly ranged from history and world current affairs to remembrances of Castro's late friend Hugo Chavez of Venezuela.

Argentine President Cristina Fernandez got things started Sunday. She and Castro sat chatting in the

comfortable living room of a home where he apparently lives, along with Castro's longtime companion,

Dalia Soto del Valle. Fernandez asked Castro to autograph several photographs.



In this photo released by Cubadebate, Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega, left, embraces Cuba's former President Fidel Castro during a visit in Havana, Cuba, Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2014. Ortega is in Havana to attend the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States summit. (AP Photo/Cubadebate, Alex Castro)

Panama orders release of crew of N. Korean ship

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Panama's judicial authorities have ordered the release of 32 of 35 crew members of a North Korean ship detained last July for carrying hidden arms from Cuba and they were working Thursday on paperwork needed to leave. Prosecutor Nahaniel Murgas said the captain and two other crew members will remain to face arms trafficking charges. He said a search of the ship turned up docu-

ments that showed "that the ship's captain, first officer and political officer had been given instructions about what to do if the illegal shipment was detected. There were certain recommendations."

"Together with that were the statements by the rest of the crew, who said they were employees on the vessel, but not responsible" for the shipment, he said. "It was based on that the

er 32." The Chong Chon Gang was carrying Cuban fighter jets and missiles. The owners agreed to pay a \$670,000 fine this month to release the ship.

The ship was headed from Cuba to North Korea when it was stopped in the canal on July 15 based on intelligence that it may have been carrying drugs.

The Cuban military equipment was found beneath sacks of sugar. Panama has not released the 10,000

tons of sugar or the arms. After the seizure, Cuba said the cargo included "obsolete defensive weapons" including two MiG-21 fighter jets and 15 motors, nine missiles in parts, and two anti-aircraft systems that were being shipped to North Korea "to be repaired and returned."

A preliminary report by U.N. experts determined that the seized ship violated U.N. sanctions against North Korea. □

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Jamaican Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller and Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff came calling the following day. A beaming Rousseff held Castro's arm as they walked, she in a bright orange blazer and he in a striped-black track suit.

Next were Kenny Anthony, prime minister of the tiny Caribbean island nation of St. Lucia, and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Ban said he found the 87-year-old Castro "spiritually alert" and physically strong.

But it was Wednesday when the Castro household really grew busy. Presidents Evo Morales of Bolivia, Rafael Correa of Ecuador, Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua, Jose Mujica of Uruguay and Enrique Pena Nieto of Mexico all sat down with Castro, in a kind of mini-summit parallel to the one taking place nearby in a Havana convention center.

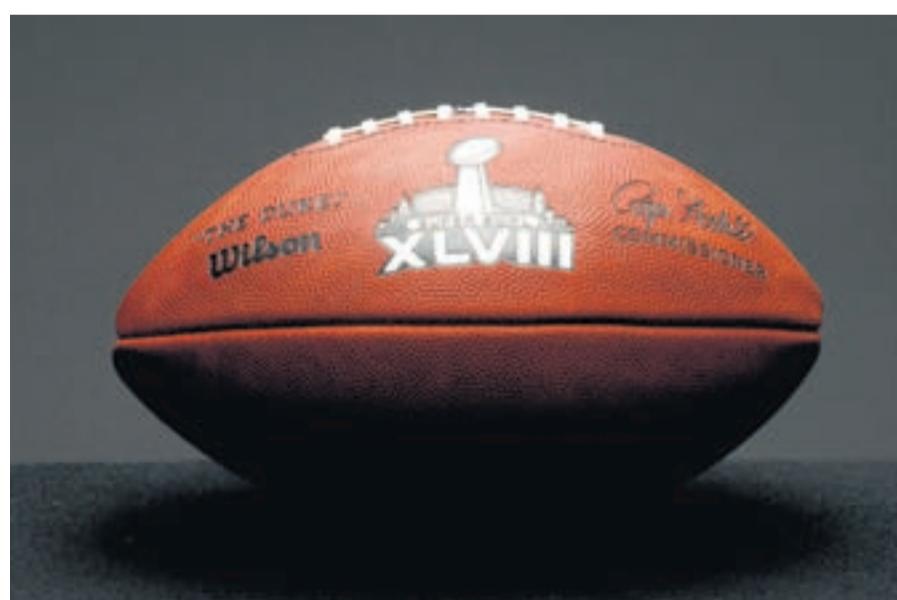
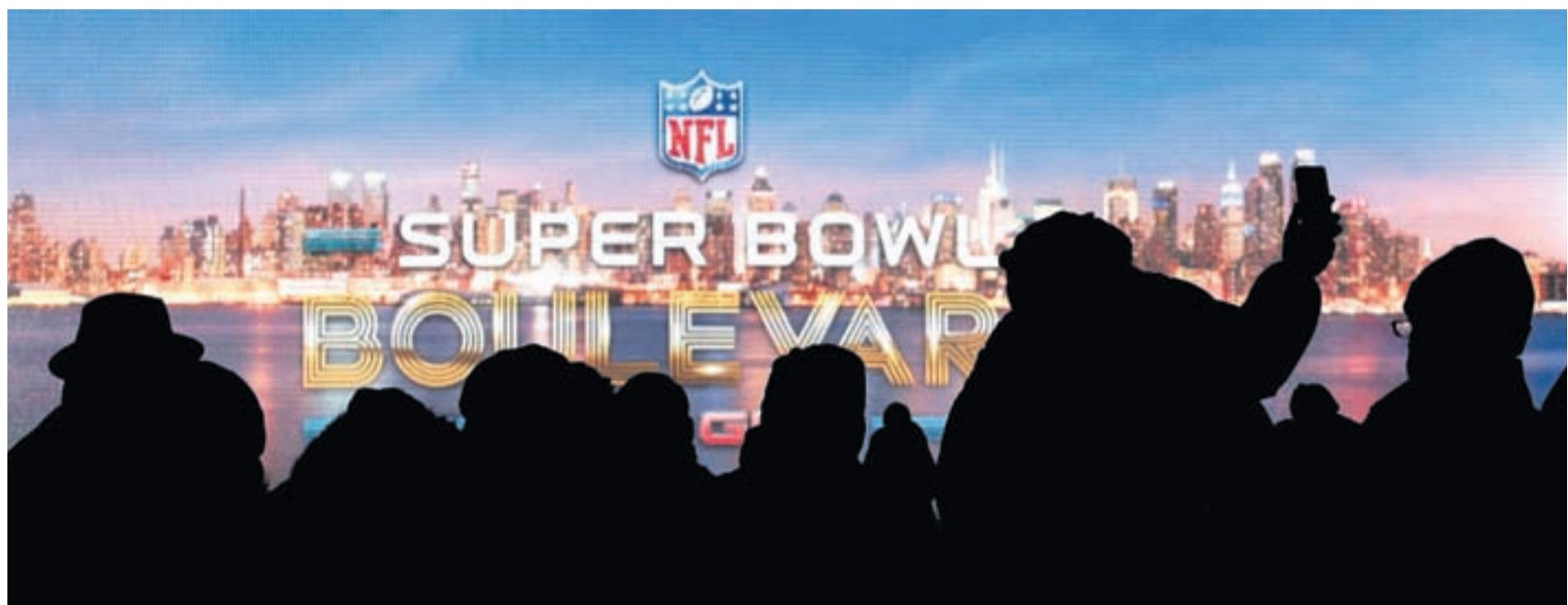
"Like him or not, he's a large figure in Latin American history, and so they visit him for that reason," said Philip Peters, a longtime Cuba analyst and head of the Cuba Research Center in Virginia.

"None of (the visitors) run a one-party state. None of them would dream of adopting his economic policies," Peters continued. "But they all probably admire the fact that he stood up to the United States for 50 years." □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

At Aruba's Famous Alhambra Casino:

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EAGLE BEACH - This Sunday the Cove at the Alhambra Casino will be showing Super Bowl XLVIII on 8 Giant TV screens in order for you to watch the game from every angle. You cannot miss the game between the Denver Broncos and the Seattle Seahawks.

The Cove and his staff will be offering special prices on chicken wings and on buckets of beer: a pitcher of

the local Balashi Beer and 6 wings with Fries for only \$ 18.-- Be there early so you can pick the best spot in the house. Play your slot machine or any of your favorite games at Alhambra Casino. We offer everything you need under one roof. The doors will open at 5 PM in the afternoon. So don't miss this Super Bowl Sunday event live at The Cove! □

In the Arawak Garden:

Celebrating love at fabulous Tango Argentine Restaurant

PALM BEACH - Here they are: Steven & Christina Robertson, waitress Afra and Tony & Eleanor Panzarino with hostess Felicia.

They were caught by the photographer after they had a great time at Tango Argentine Restaurant, one of the many restaurants

of the Arawak Garden on the Hi-Rise Strip. Love was in the air, because Tony & Eleanor are celebrating 65 years of marriage,

while Steven & Christina are living it up, celebrating 40 years of happiness together. The two couples are from Boston and they love Motown music, so it was a good thing that singer Tony Marshall ready to play some rousing songs for them. Tony, by the way, can be seen on stage every Saturday and Monday from 7:30pm till 10:30pm.

One weird thing: the Robersons and Panzarino's have been coming to Aruba for twenty years, but they never went to dinner at Tango. But now that they have discovered this excellent restaurant, they will be back many times, they promised. We wish you happy wedding anniversaries and many more years together! □



Beauty On The Beach

Laurra Vidconi

She is from New Jersey, USA. It is her first time in Aruba. She is staying at the Radisson Beach Resort. What she loves most of Aruba is the weather and the beach.

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EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very special couple whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Tropicana Resort and Casino as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Berle Marks and Rosemary Hines from Baltimore, Maryland.

Berle and Rosemary are loyal members of the Tropicana Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, great entertainment and being on Aruba and staying at the Tropicana is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Brian Stedeford GM and Jacky Feliciana Assistant GM at the Tropicana Resort and Casino. □



All the way from Luxemburg: Welcome Back Vincent and Cely de Kroon!

PALM BEACH - This week's special Bugaloe guests are from that tiny little but beautiful country Luxemburg! Vincent and Cely de Kroon have been coming to Aruba for 9 years and just love hanging out at Bugaloe. They fell in love with the island for its beautiful beaches, beautiful friendly people and beautiful weather. Finding their way to Bugaloe wasn't hard, and they like to relax with the friendly and mostly funny staff who work at Bugaloe. Through the years, the Bugaloe crew and the Luxemburg couple have become good friends. Their favorite menu items are the shrimp, the Bugaloe fries and the ribs special on Saturday. Not only are the ribs delicious, but it's always nice enjoying ribs while watching people find their inner Britney on the karaoke machine! While looking at the sunset, a Chardonnay, Sex OnThe Beach Cocktail or Polar beer is best in hand. They couldn't answer the question 'what is your funniest memory of Bugaloe' but said: 'Every day at Bugaloe is a funny, happy and beautiful day!' The Bugaloe crew would like to thank Vincent and Cely for being such loyal Bugaloe guests and hope to see them more often! □



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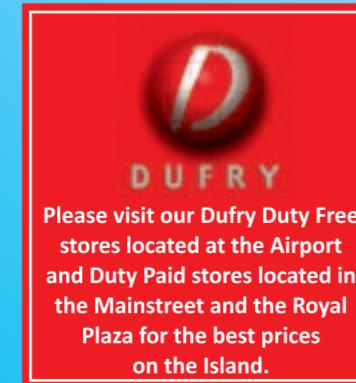
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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

McIlroy shoots 63 to take lead in Dubai

BERNIE MCGUIRE
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Rory McIlroy took another step toward regaining his form Thursday with his lowest score in more than three years, a 9-under 63 while playing with Tiger Woods to take a two-shot lead in the Dubai Desert Classic.

McIlroy played bogey-free in ideal scoring conditions on the Maglis course at Emirates Golf Club, picking up six birdies and an eagle during a 10-hole stretch in the middle of his round. He easily upstaged Woods, who was five shots behind after a 68.

Edoardo Molinari made an eagle on the par-4 second hole on his way to a 65. The group at 66 included Stephen Gallacher, the defending champion who also played in the feature group with Woods and McIlroy.

McIlroy had his best score since a 63 in the Hong Kong Open in November 2010.

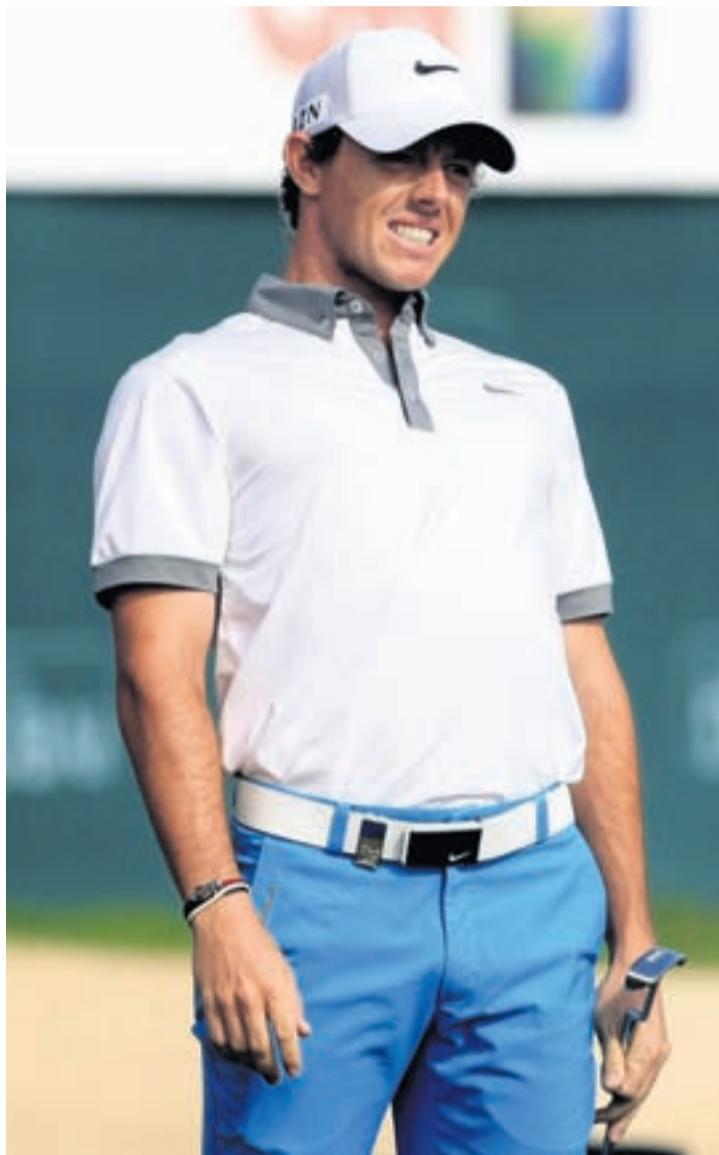
The 24-year-old from Northern Ireland was No. 1 in the world at this point a year ago, but went through

a troublesome season adjusting to new equipment and coping with his first prolonged slump. He didn't win a tournament until the Australian Open in December. In his 2014 debut two weeks ago, McIlroy finished one shot behind in Abu Dhabi, where he was given a two-shot penalty in the third round for not taking proper relief. McIlroy said he was "very close" to playing his best and that this was "another step up from Abu Dhabi" the way he controlled his irons.

"I played the ball really well from tee to green, drove the ball really well again," he said. "You can see how well I am driving it that I am leaving myself a lot of wedges into the green. So that's going to help."

McIlroy ran off three straight birdies early in his round and made the turn on the back nine in 32. He made eagle on the par-5 third hole with a 5-wood into 8 feet.

Woods managed to hit just half of the fairways in regulation, but taking only 25 putts helped him. The



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland misses a putt on the 18th hole during the first round of the Dubai Desert Classic golf tournament in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014.

Associated Press

world's No. 1 player also made his first birdie of the year on a par 5, his opening hole at No. 10. Woods did not birdie any of the 12 par 5s he played last week at Torrey Pines, where he missed the 54-hole cut.

"I felt like it was a good day," Woods said. "I could have got a couple more out of it, just by making a couple putts from about ten feet or so but I hit a lot of good putts which was nice. Last week I didn't do it and it was nice to actually play well again."

Woods is a two-time winner in Dubai, which is celebrating its 25-year anniversary. McIlroy won his first European Tour event at Dubai in 2009. Among the past champions, Fred Couples, Mark O'Meara and Colin Montgomerie each shot 70, as did Race to Dubai winner Henrik Stenson.

Molinari, who took a bogey on the par-5 18th, bounced back on the short second hole when he hit a big drive to just short of the green and then chipped in from about 35 yards for an eagle.

Continued on Page 22

U.S. Olympic champion swimmer Rebecca Soni retires

The 26-year-old American plans to launch a new lifestyle company and blog instead of making an attempt at her third Olympics.

Soni took an extended break after the London Games, but left open the possibility of returning to the pool. Finally, with about 2 1/2 years to go until the 2016 Olympics, she decided to retire.

"I know I've conquered my goals in the pool, and now it's time to conquer something else," she said.

Soni won the 200-meter breaststroke at the last two Olympics while taking back-to-back silvers in the 100 breast. She also was part of medley relay teams that won gold in Beijing and the silver in London.

She is best known for becoming the first woman to break 2 minutes, 20 seconds in the 200 breast. At the London Olympics, Soni set a world record with a time of 2:19.59, a mark that was broken at last year's world champion-

ships by Rikke Pedersen of Denmark.

"Achieving my dream of going below 2 minutes and 20 seconds in the 200m breaststroke really put the storybook ending on my career," Soni said.

She will launch her new company, The Atlas Ventures, in the spring in partnership with another U.S. swimmer, Ariana Kukors.

"I want to do my best to inspire the next generation and to share some of the things I've learned," Soni said. □



In this Aug. 2, 2012, file photo, United States' Rebecca Soni celebrates her win in the women's 200-meter breaststroke swimming final at the Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park during the Summer Olympics in London.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Six-time Olympic medalist Rebecca Soni retired from swimming Thursday.

NASCAR creates winner-take-all championship format

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — NASCAR overhauled its championship format on Thursday, creating an elimination, winner-take-all system designed to reward "the most battle-tested" driver at the end of the season.

An expanded 16-driver field will be whittled down to a final four through three rounds of eliminations. The remaining four drivers will go to the season finale with an equal chance to win the championship: The first of the four drivers to cross the finish line will be crowned champion.

"No math. No bonus points. It's as simple as it gets," NASCAR Chairman Brian France said.

It's the fourth and most radical change to either the points or championship format since France created the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship system in 2004. For 28 years before the Chase, the champion was the driver with the

most points at the end of the season.

It was changed a year after Matt Kenseth won the 2003 title with one victory. France has made it clear he wants a greater emphasis on winning and drivers aggressively pursuing a trip to Victory Lane. Under this new format, the days of settling for a good points day are officially over.

Why? Because a win in the 26-race "regular season" virtually guarantees a berth in the 10-race Chase. Then, once eliminations begin in the Chase, a driver can guarantee advancing into the next round by winning a race.

Last August, 2012 champion Brad Keselowski chased Kyle Busch around Watkins Glen and declined to aggressively move his rival out of the way. Keselowski settled for second, and in failing to win a regular-season race, he missed the Chase and was ineligible to de-

fend his title.

Under the new format, a winless Keselowski would have no choice in that same situation but to bang fenders with Busch and go after a win.

That's exactly what France wants to see on the track each week. More important, it's what France said research shows fans overwhelmingly support.

"This is pretty clear: You have to win, you have to compete at a higher level, you have to take more chances," France said, adding that NASCAR has not wavered in its desire for increased action on the track.

"If it's this format, or any other format, and it's late in the race and you've got a faster car, we expect some contact." □



NASCAR CEO Brian France speaks to the media during a news conference at the NASCAR Sprint Cup auto racing Media Tour in Charlotte, N.C., Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014.

Associated Press

NFL: 13 percent fewer concussions in '13 than '12



Jeff Miller, with the NFL, speaks during a news conference on health and safety at the NFL Super Bowl XLVIII media center, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL says the number of concussions in practices and games in the pre-season and regular season dropped 13 percent from 2012 to 2013.

Using information collected from team doctors, the league also says there was a 23 percent decrease over the past two seasons in the number of concussions caused by helmet-to-helmet contact.

Speaking at a pre-Super Bowl news conference on Thursday, Jeff Miller, the league's senior VP of health and safety policy, calls the data "positive trends."

Some players have expressed concern that the NFL's emphasis on decreasing hits to the head could lead to more low hits and more knee injuries. But Miller says there has not been an overall increase in damaged knee ligaments. □

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Thunder erase early 18-point hole, top Heat 112-95

The Associated

MIAMI (AP) — Kevin Durant scored 33 points and Serge Ibaka added 22 as the Oklahoma City Thunder erased an 18-point early deficit on the way to overwhelming the Miami Heat 112-95 on Wednesday.

Jeremy Lamb and Derek Fisher came off the bench to score a combined 33 more for the Thunder, who have now won nine straight.

Durant scored at least 30 points for the 12th straight game, matching the league's longest such streak since Tracy McGrady did it in 14 consecutive outings in the 2002-03 season. Miami led 22-4, and then got outscored 87-53 in the next 2½ quarters.

LeBron James scored 34 for the Heat, with Chris Bosh adding 18 and Dwyane Wade 15.

76ERS 95, CELTICS 94
BOSTON (AP) — Evan Turn-

er sank a layup at the buzzer to lift Philadelphia past Boston.

The 76ers rebounded the ball after Kris Humphries missed a jumper with 12 seconds left. They hurried upcourt and Turner released his shot just in time to give the 76ers only their third win in 13 games.

The Celtics lost for the 19th time in 22 games and dropped behind the 76ers in the standings by one game. Spencer Hawes led Philadelphia with 20 points and tied his career high with four 3-pointers.

Turner had 16 points and eight assists and Thaddeus Young added 16 points. Jared Sullinger led Boston with 24 points and 17 rebounds and Jeff Green had 18 points, but just five after the first quarter.

SUNS 126, BUCKS 117

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Goran Dragic scored 30 points, including 13 in the fourth

quarter despite sustaining an apparent injury to his left elbow, as Phoenix beat Milwaukee.

Gerald Green scored 23 and Marcus Morris had 16 points off the bench for the Suns, who have won the first three games of a four-game road trip.

Dragic hit the floor hard after a late foul by Larry Sanders, but was able to stay in the game — and keep scoring. But he was on the bench with a wrap on his left elbow in the closing minutes, and was escorted to the locker room with 52 seconds remaining. Ersan Ilyasova scored 27 points and Brandon Knight added 24 for the Bucks, who have only one win in January.

TIMBERWOLVES 88, PELICANS 77

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kevin Love had 30 points and 14 rebounds to finally carry Minnesota over the .500



Oklahoma City Thunder small forward Kevin Durant (35) drives as Miami Heat small forward LeBron James (6) defends during the second period of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2014.

Associated Press

mark for the season.

Kevin Martin added 18 points on 7-of-18 shooting and six boards for the Timberwolves in their first game without center Nikola Pekovic, who is expected to miss at least a week with bursitis in his right ankle. They still managed to get over .500 after failing in their previous 10 chances to do so.

Al-Farouq Aminu had 18 points and 12 rebounds for the Pelicans, who were missing star forward Anthony Davis with a dislocated left index finger. They shot just 35 percent and managed a season-low 35 points in the first half to snap a three-game winning streak.

RAPTORS 98, MAGIC 83

TORONTO (AP) — Kyle Lowry had a season-high 33 points and 11 assists, and Amir Johnson had 22 points and 11 rebounds to lead Toronto past Orlando for the fifth straight time.

Jonas Valanciunas had 14 points and 15 rebounds and Terrence Ross scored 12 as the Raptors, who never trailed, won for the fourth time in five games. Lowry, who had seven rebounds, matched his season best with six 3-point-

ers. He came within three points of matching his career-high of 36, set Feb. 16, 2011, against Philadelphia, when he played for Houston.

Lowry also topped 30 points in back-to-back games for the first time.

ROCKETS 117, MAVERICKS 115

DALLAS (AP) — Chandler Parsons scored 26 points as Houston beat a Texas rival for the second straight day without James Harden.

Seven Rockets players scored in double figures on a night when they had just 10 players in uniform. Dwight Howard had 21 points, and Jeremy Lin had 18 and seven assists.

The Mavericks cut a 12-point deficit with 4:08 remaining to just two and had a chance to win, but Jose Calderon missed a pair of 3-point tries in the final seconds.

Dirk Nowitzki had 38 points and a season-high 17 rebounds, but was the only Dallas starter in double figures.

BOBCATS 101, NUGGETS 98

DENVER (AP) — Al Jefferson matched a season high with 35 points, including a key basket in the final seconds, to lead Charlotte. □

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NHL Capsules

Oilers' Scrivens sets shutout record with 59 saves

The Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP)

— Ben Scrivens made 59 saves in a spectacular performance that helped the Edmonton Oilers beat the San Jose Sharks 3-0 Wednesday night.

The Sharks matched the record for shots against the Oilers, accomplished by the New York Rangers in a 4-3 loss in 1993. This time, the recently acquired Scrivens turned away all 59 as Edmonton won its third straight.

Justin Schultz, Jordan Eberle and Taylor Hall scored for Edmonton, which had only 27.

Scrivens stopped 20 shots in the first, 22 in the second and 17 in the third.

RANGERS 2, ISLANDERS 1

NEW YORK (AP) — Daniel Carcillo scored the tie-breaking goal 4:36 into the third period as the Rangers completed a two-game sweep of the outdoor series with a victory over the Islanders at frigid Yankee Stadium.

Building off their 7-3 win over New Jersey at the ballpark in the Bronx on Sunday, the Rangers took out another division rival under the lights in front of 50,027 fans. The temperature was 22 degrees when the first puck dropped at 7:45 p.m. with a single-digit wind-chill factor.

Benoit Pouliot also scored for the Rangers, who are 3-0 in their history while playing outside. Henrik Lundqvist stopped 30 shots while again adorning pinstriped pads in honor of the Yankees. The only goal he allowed was a late second-period tally to Brock Nelson.

BLACKHAWKS 5, CANUCKS 2

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Jonathan Toews, Patrick Sharp and Brandon Saad each had a goal and an assist in the second period as the Chicago Blackhawks scored in quick succession to beat the Vancouver Canucks.

Marian Hossa also scored in the second period for Chicago and Saad add-



New York Islanders right wing Kyle Okposo (21) checks New York Rangers left wing Rick Nash (61) during the second period of an outdoor NHL hockey game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2014.

Associated Press

ed an empty netter late. Corey Crawford made 29 saves.

The Blackhawks scored four times on five shots in a span of 7:31 in the second to rally from two goals down and snap a four-game winless streak.

The victory was Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville's 693rd, moving him past Dick Irvin into sole possession of third place on the all-time NHL coaching wins list.

Chris Higgins and Tom Sestito scored for Vancouver, and Roberto Luongo stopped 36 shots. □



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Celski gives U.S. best hope for short track medal

BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

Apolo Anton Ohno took his soul patch, bandanas and eight Olympic medals into retirement, leaving a gaping hole in American short track speedskating.

J.R. Celski is poised to step into the void as the country's best hope for a medal in the wild and wooly sport known as roller derby on ice.

The 23-year-old from Federal Way, Washington, will compete at his second Olympics looking to add to the pair of bronze medals he won at the 2010 Vancouver Games, when Ohno was ending his career as America's most decorated Winter Olympian.

Celski qualified in all three distances for Sochi, in addition to the 5,000-meter relay. He's ranked among the world's top 10 in the 1,000 and 1,500, and just outside the top 10 in the 500. This time, Celski is healthy heading to the Olympics. At the U.S. trials four years ago, his right skate sliced his left leg in a crash, spewing blood on the ice. He bruised his femoral artery and came close to severing it, which could have been fatal.

The accident required six hours of daily physical therapy, which robbed him of practice time. But he bounced back five months later to make the podium in Vancouver.

"My goal was just to get to Vancouver. I did that and the medals were just a bonus," he said. "This time, I'm going to Sochi healthy and I'm looking forward to doing some damage."

Celski took a year off after Vancouver to re-establish his goals and mindset. Once he returned and started winning races, he rekindled the love he had for the sport. He welcomes assuming leadership of the U.S. men's team from Ohno, who mentored Celski and remains one of his biggest supporters.

"I am very happy to be in the position I am now. I looked up to that guy for a long time," said Celski, who like Ohno is from the Seattle area. "This time is completely different for me mentally, physically, I'm healthy. I'm going to ride that momentum."

In Vancouver, a team led by Ohno and now-retired Katherine Reutter earned a total of six medals — two silver and four bronze — to trail only powerhouse South Korea in the standings.

The Americans will be hard-pressed to equal that showing in Russia, but the men have the stronger team.

Unlike the U.S. women, who didn't qualify a relay team for Sochi, the U.S. men will be a gold-medal favorite in the 5,000 relay. Celski will be joined by Eddy Alvarez, Kyle Carr, Chris Creveling and Jordan Malone in making up the team. The Americans were top-ranked during the World Cup season.

"We all practice together every day and that's going to make a huge difference," Celski said.

Their togetherness is in stark contrast to the turmoil that roiled the U.S. short track program beginning in 2012.

Coach Jae Su Chun was accused by a dozen national team members of physical, emotional and verbal abuse. He also was alleged to have ordered speedskater Simon Cho to sabotage the skates of a Canadian rival.

Chun denied all allegations, and other members of the team came to his defense. He's serving a two-year suspension through October, and Jessica Smith is the only skat-



In this Jan. 3, 2014, file photo, J.R. Celski celebrates after the men's 1,500-meter race at the U.S. Olympic short track speedskating trials in Kearns, Utah.

Associated Press

er he coaches to have made the Olympic team. He plans to be in the stands in Sochi, although he won't be allowed inside the racing area. Celski was among Chun's accusers. "Everybody had their choice," Celski said.

Canadian Stephen Gough was brought in to oversee the fractured national program, and tread lightly in trying to bring cohesion in the months leading up to Sochi.

"He made sure that the right people were in place," Celski said of Gough's staffing choices. "They're a lot of the reason why we are the team we are today. Everybody is meshing really well together. That's what the biggest change has been in the past 1½ years is really figuring out who are the key people that are going to raise this team's spirits."

Like Ohno, who had varied interests off the ice, Celski is into music and film-making. Last year, he produced "The Other Side," a documentary featuring Grammy-winning duo Macklemore & Ryan Lewis and other hip hop acts in the Pacific Northwest.

Having endured the turmoil to make a second Olympics, Celski is now optimistic enough to consider the future.

"I love to speed skate," he said. "I wouldn't be surprised if I convince myself to keep going." □

Dubai

Continued from Page 18

"It was a good day," Molinari said. "I've been hitting the ball very well lately, and especially off the tee." But the day belonged to McIlroy, who has a chance this week to build some momentum. He called it his best round since a 66 to beat Adam Scott in Australia at the end of last year, and while McIlroy shot 64 in Boston last September, "it's definitely the lowest

round I've shot in a while." Gallacher said he was happy with a 66, especially playing alongside two of the biggest stars in golf. He played an 18-hole exhibition with Woods and Couples earlier this week. "I played alongside Tiger on Tuesday, so I knew what to expect, and it was just a matter of getting on with my own game," Gallacher said. "So Tiger's been fine, but then Rory's been brilliant." □



Tiger Woods from the U.S., left, talks to Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland during the first round of the Dubai Desert Classic golf tournament in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014.

Associated Press

Google's Motorola misstep could be Lenovo's boon

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

An expensive mistake by Google could turn into a golden opportunity for China's Lenovo Group as it expands beyond its success in the personal computer industry.

Google is ridding itself of a financial headache by selling Motorola Mobility's smartphone business to Lenovo for \$2.9 billion. The deal announced late Wednesday comes less than two years after

Google bought Motorola Mobility for \$12.4 billion in the biggest acquisition of Google's 15-year history.

While Google Inc. is back-pedaling, Lenovo Group Ltd. is gearing up for a major expansion. Already the world's largest PC maker, Lenovo is now determined to become a bigger player in smartphones as more people rely on them instead of laptop and desktop computers to go online. Lenovo already is among the smartphone leaders in its home country, but it has been looking for ways to expand its presence in other markets, especially the U.S. and Latin America. The company had been rumored to be among the prospective buyers for BlackBerry Ltd. when that troubled smartphone maker was mulling a sale last year.

"We will be going from an emerging-market player to a worldwide player in smartphones," Lenovo CEO Yang Yuanqing said in an interview with The Associated Press.

This marks Lenovo's second high-profile deal this month. The company announced plans last week to buy a major piece of IBM Corp.'s computer server business for \$2.3 billion.

For Google, the sale is a tacit admission that a company that prides itself on employing some of the world's smartest people miscalculated how much Motorola was worth.

Google previously recovered some of the money that it spent on Motorola

by selling its set-top operations last year to Arris Group Inc. for \$2.35 billion.

And Google is holding on to most of Motorola's more than 20,000 mobile patents, providing Google with legal protection for its widely used Android software for smartphones and tablet computers. Gaining control of Motorola's patents was the main reason Google was willing to pay so much for a smartphone maker that was already losing money and market share.

The Motorola patents were valued at \$5.5 billion at the time Google took over, according to regulatory filings. Factoring all that, there's a gap of roughly \$1.65 billion between what Google paid for Motorola and what Google is getting from its sales to Arris and Lenovo, plus the original value of the patents. What's not known is the value of the patents Google is keeping, as Lenovo is picking up about 2,000 Motorola patents in addition to the phone manufacturing operations.

It's also unclear if Google will have to absorb a charge to account for its apparent miscalcula-



In this Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2012, file photo, Eric Schmidt, Google's chairman, speaks during a press conference in New York, where Motorola introduced three new smartphones, the first since it became a part of Google.

Associated Press

tion of Motorola Mobility's value. The Mountain View, Calif., company may address the issue when it announces its fourth-quarter earnings after the market closes Thursday.

Most investors viewed Motorola as an unnecessary drain on Google's profit, a perspective that was reflected by Wall Street's reaction to the sale. Google's stock gained \$33.04, or 3 percent, to \$1,139.96 in midday trading Thursday.

A cellphone pioneer, Mo-

torola Mobility had its last big hit with the Razr flip phone, which came out in 2004. Its product line became outmoded after Apple Inc. released the iPhone in 2007, unleashing a new era of touch-screen phones. Motorola hasn't been able to catch up yet, even as last summer's Moto X received positive reviews. Motorola's losses are likely to dampen Google's earnings at least for the first half of this year. That's because it's expected to take six

to nine months before the proposed sale gets the necessary approvals from regulators.

Buying Motorola will enable Lenovo to join Apple Inc. as the only major technology companies with global product lines in PCs, smartphones and tablets, putting Lenovo in a better position to become a one-stop shop for companies to buy all their devices from the same vendor, said Forrester Research analyst Frank Gillett. □

Yahoo email account passwords stolen



Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer, puts a headset during a session at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Yahoo said Thursday that user names and passwords of its email customers have been stolen and used to access accounts, but the company isn't saying how many accounts have been affected.

Yahoo is the second-largest email service worldwide, after Google's Gmail, according to the research firm comScore. There are 273 million Yahoo mail accounts worldwide, including 81 million in the U.S. Yahoo Inc. said in a blog

post on its breach that "The information sought in the attack seems to be names and email addresses from the affected accounts' most recent sent emails." That could mean hackers were looking for additional email addresses to send spam or scam messages. By grabbing real names from those sent folders, hackers could try to make bogus messages appear more legitimate to recipients.

The bigger danger: access to email accounts could lead to more serious breaches involving banking and shopping sites. That's because many sites use email to reset passwords. Hackers could try logging in to such a site with the Yahoo email ad-

dress, for instance, and ask that a password reminder be sent by email.

The breach is the second problem for Yahoo's mail service in two months. In December, the service suffered a multi-day outage that prompted Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer issue an apology.

Yahoo said it believes the usernames and passwords weren't collected from its own systems, but from a third-party database. It's not clear why a third-party database would have information on Yahoo accounts.

Yahoo said it is resetting passwords on affected accounts and has "implemented additional measures" to block further attacks. □

US stocks move higher, helped by tech sector, GDP

NEW YORK (AP) — It was a stock market reversal.

Stocks rose sharply Thursday, with large parts of the market erasing Wednesday's losses, as investors cheered a batch of strong earnings and data that showed the U.S. economy grew at a robust annual rate of 3.2 percent in the fourth quarter.

Investors also got a welcome respite from the recent turmoil in overseas markets, particularly in Turkey and Argentina.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 19.99 points, or

1.1 percent, to 1,794.19, with all 10 sectors of the index closing higher. That more than made up the 18.29 points the index lost on Wednesday.

The Nasdaq composite jumped 71.69 points, or 1.8 percent, to 4,123.13 and the Dow Jones industrial average rose 109.82 points, or 0.7 percent, to 15,848.61.

Facebook jumped \$7.55, or 14 percent, to \$61.08. The social media company reported results late Wednesday that exceeded the expectations of financial

analysts. Facebook's adjusted profit was 31 cents per share, four cents better than forecast.

It wasn't all good news out of the technology sector. Amazon.com sank in after-hours trading after releasing results that fell short of what investors were expecting. The stock of the online retailing pioneer dropped \$35.47, or 9 percent, to \$367.54.

In other earnings news, Visa rose \$3.76, or 2 percent, to \$220.88 after the company reported a 9 percent rise in first-quarter profits, beating

expectations.

Alexion Pharmaceuticals was the biggest advance in the S&P 500, rising \$28.27, or 21 percent, to \$162 after the company also beat analysts' expectations and gave a strong 2014 outlook. Alexion is a specialized drug maker focused on rare genetic diseases.

Alexion helped lift the stocks of other drugmakers. Dow members Merck and Pfizer each rose more than 2 percent. Specialized drugmakers Gilead Sciences and Biogen were up 2 percent and 4 percent, respectively.

Investors also cheered news that U.S. economy grew at a 3.2 percent annual rate in the final three months of 2013, a positive sign for the economy in 2014. Consumer spending, a major driver of the U.S. economy, picked up in the quarter.

"It was a good, balanced GDP report," said Sean Lynch, global investment strategist with Wells Fargo Private Bank, which manages \$170 billion in assets. Even with Thursday's gain, it's been a difficult month for investors. The Dow is down 4.4 percent in January, the worst start to a year since 2009.

Emerging markets worries drove most of the sell-off over the last two weeks. A survey last week confirmed that manufacturing in Chi-

na, the world's second-biggest economy, slowed in January. And this week, the Turkish lira hit record lows, partly because a police bribery scandal there might destabilize the Turkish government.

In Argentina, the peso had its sharpest slide in 12 years earlier this month.

"The currency problems in the emerging markets caught a lot of people by surprise, and that overflowed in to U.S. markets," Lynch said.

Investors got a break from the troubles in emerging markets Thursday. The Turkish lira, Argentinian peso and the South African rand, another troubled currency, stabilized.

The iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, an exchange-traded fund that tracks stocks located in less-developed countries, rose 1 percent after falling 1.5 percent the day before.

Even with Thursday's upturn, the broader trend in the market appears to be downward for the time being, strategists say. The Dow has risen only two out of the last eight trading days.

"I'm pretty focused on corporate earnings, and that's about it," said Ian Winer, director of trading at Wedbush Securities. "Earnings have been OK, but not all that great. I think we're going lower, and I think (the sell-off this month) is just the beginning."

Several investors have said the U.S. stock market will experience a "correction," meaning a decline of 10 percent or more in a benchmark index like the S&P 500, sometime this year. That chorus has gotten louder in the last couple of weeks. The last time the market had a correction was in October 2011.

"The markets have been looking for a reason to pull back and certainly the emerging markets and currency problems gave them a reason to do so," Lynch said.

The bond market also had a day of stability. The yield on the U.S. 10-year Treasury note edged up to 2.70 percent from 2.68 percent the day before. □



Seattle Seahawks owner Paul Allen, second from right, waves to the trading floor after ringing the New York Stock Exchange's opening bell, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014. He is joined by, from left: New York Giants co-owner Laurie Tisch, New York Jets owner Woody Johnson; Denver Broncos executive vice president of football operations John Elway; and Giants co-owner Jon Tisch. The Seahawks face the Broncos in Super Bowl XLVIII on Sunday in East Rutherford, N.J. (AP Photo)

Amazon 4Q earnings grow but miss expectations

SEATTLE (AP) — Amazon's profit and revenue both grew in the latest quarter but its results fell below what Wall Street was expecting and shares of the world's biggest online retailer tumbled.

Amazon has long focused on spending the money it makes to grow its business and expand into new areas, from movie streaming to e-readers and even grocery delivery.

Investors have largely forgiven thin profit margins and zeroed in on the company's solid revenue growth and long-term prospects. It posted losses in two previous quarters due to rising operating



An Amazon.com employee stocks products along one of the many miles of aisles at an Amazon.com Fulfillment Center in Phoenix. Amazon reported quarterly earnings on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

costs.

Amazon said Thursday that it earned \$239 million, or 51 cents per share, in the October-December period,

which included the key holiday shopping period. That's up from \$97 million, or 21 cents per share, in the same period a year

earlier. Revenue grew 20 percent in the fourth quarter, to \$25.59 billion from \$21.27 billion.

Analysts were expecting earnings of 74 cents per share on revenue of \$26.05 billion, according to FactSet.

For the current quarter, Amazon is forecasting revenue of \$18.2 billion and \$19.9 billion. Analysts expect \$19.67 billion.

Shares of Seattle-based Amazon.com Inc. fell \$32.27, or 8 percent, to \$370.74 in extended trading after the results came out. The stock had closed regular trading up \$18.81, or nearly 5 percent, at \$403.01. □

Google poised for stock split

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google is finally ready to split its stock for the first time, more than three years after co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin began discussing a move engineered to ensure they remain in control of the Internet's most powerful company. The split is scheduled to occur April 2. It had been delayed because of staunch resistance from other Google Inc. shareholders, who feared the maneuver would unfairly benefit Page and Brin at the expense of just about everyone else.

Google proposed the unorthodox split so that Page and Brin could preserve power in the company they started in a rented garage more than 15 years ago. It addresses concerns that the founders would lose control of Google as the company creates more shares to compensate its employees and buy startups.

To gain clearance for the split, Google settled a shareholders lawsuit and agreed to pay up to \$7.5 billion if the split doesn't pan out the way the Mountain View, California, company envisions. Google's split will create a new class of "C" stock that carries no voting power. One share of C stock will be distributed for each share of voting Class A stock owned as of March 27. Initially, the value of the current stock will be divided equally between the two types of shares. But they will then trade separately with different ticker symbols. Class C shares will get the company's existing "GOOG" ticker symbol, while Class A will change to "GOOGL."

If the split hadn't been delayed by a legal skirmish, Google's stock probably wouldn't have exceeded \$1,000 for the first time last fall.

Page and Brin primarily own Google's Class B stock, which already gives them 10 times the voting power of each Class A share. Combined,

the Google founders control 56 percent of the shareholder votes, even though they own less than 15 percent of the stock issued.

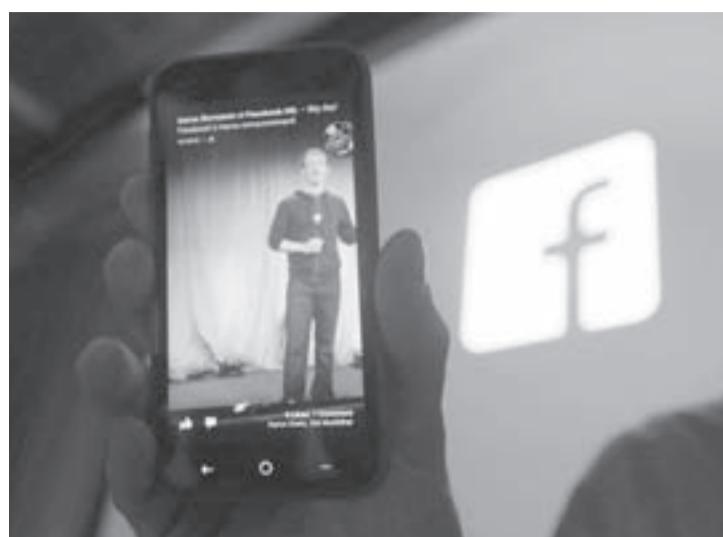
Nonetheless, the voting clout of Page and Brin has been gradually shrinking, as Google has used Class A stock to reward employees and finance some of its acquisitions during the past decade. Distributing a new class of non-voting stock will enable Google to continue doling out shares to its nearly 44,000 workers without further undermining the co-founders' power. As with any stock split, the division will lower Google's trading price on the Nasdaq Stock Market as investors account for a big increase in shares. The company will be distributing about 277 million shares of Class C stock, based on how many Class A shares had been issued as of late last year.

If Google's shares behave similarly to other 2-for-1 splits, the stock's price would be cut roughly in half from its current level of more than \$1,100. Google's market value would remain roughly the same at about \$380 billion because it will have nearly double the number of shares issued.

But some shareholders suspect the non-voting status of the Class C stock will cause those shares to trade at a significant discount to the Class A stock once the new stock is issued. The concerns led to a class-action lawsuit in Delaware chancery court filed shortly after Google announced its plans for the split in April 2012.

Google delayed the stock split until the lawsuit was resolved. A trial was averted after Google hammered out a settlement. Court approval came three months ago. Google will have to pay the Class C shareholders if the average price of their stock is at least 1 percent below the Class A shares during the first year after the split. □

Facebook stock soars to record high



Michael Goodwin, Senior Partner for HTC, displays an HTC First cell phone with the new Facebook interface at Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif. Facebook reported strong quarterly financial results this week.

(AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook's stock is soaring after the social networking company reported stronger-than-expected results for the fourth quarter, fueled by strong mobile advertising revenue. Facebook Inc., which turns 10 next week, said Wednesday

that more than half of its advertising revenue now comes from mobile. That's a big milestone considering it only started showing mobile ads in 2012. Investors fretted at the time that it wouldn't be able to evolve into a "mobile-first" company. The quarter's results are

a sign that it has.

At the end of 2013, more than three-quarters of Facebook's 1.23 billion users — 945 million — logged in using their mobile devices at least once a month. Baird Equity analyst Colin Sebastian said key user metrics and engagement trends — that is, how much and how often people use Facebook — remain healthy. He noted that advertising revenue accelerated for the seventh consecutive quarter. "Looking ahead, we expect further growth from video ads, Instagram, and global monetization," he wrote in a note to investors. The analyst has an "Outperform" rating on Facebook's stock. He raised his target price to \$65 from \$54 in light of the results. Menlo Park, California-based Facebook's stock is up \$7.48, or 14 percent, to \$61 in late afternoon trading. It hit a record high of \$62.50 earlier. □



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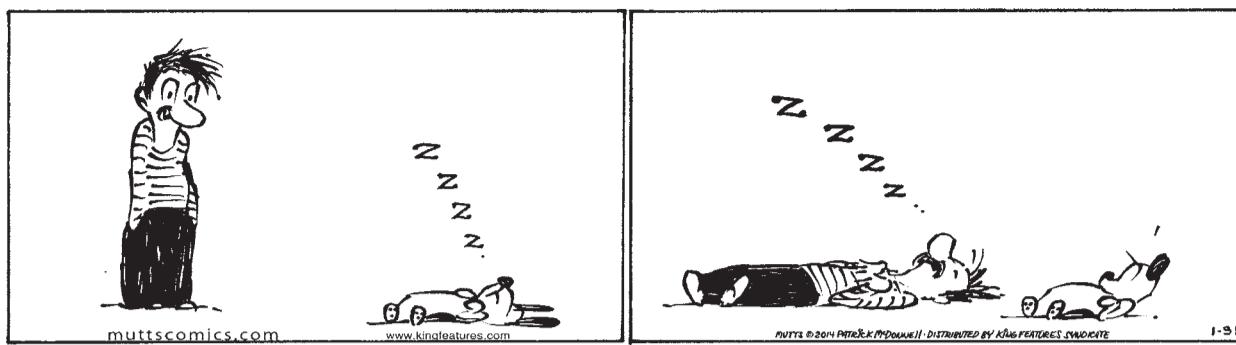
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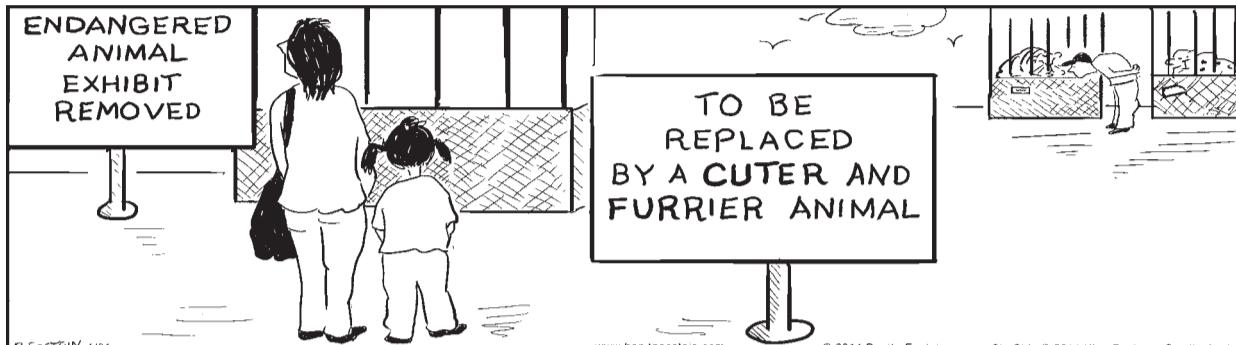
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9					3			2
			5	9	2	3		
			1		5			
7					6			4

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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1/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

3	4	1	7	5	6	2	8	9
7	6	9	3	2	8	4	1	5
8	5	2	1	4	9	7	3	6
4	1	7	2	6	5	8	9	3
2	8	6	9	3	4	5	7	1
9	3	5	8	7	1	6	2	4
5	2	3	4	9	7	1	6	8
6	9	8	5	1	2	3	4	7
1	7	4	6	8	3	9	5	2

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13		14	15						16		
17			18						19		
20		21							22		
			23						24	25	
26	27	28							29	30	
34									35		36
37			38						39		
40			41						42		
43		44							45		
			46						47		
48	49	50		51	52	53				54	55
56			57						58		59
60			61						62		
63			64						65		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/31/14

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

CA	PE	GULAG	SCOT
EV	IL	ABODE	OHIO
DONS	BORDERLINE		
EWE	ROAD	HACKS	
	APART	TIC	
TOPICS	ARNES		
AMPLE	CACAO	TAM	
BALL	PLUMP	MAYI	
SHE	ROUGE	WORST	
ASPIRE	MARGOT		
ALE	HENNA		
ENSUE	DIRT	ZAP	
REASSURING	VETO		
GENES	SIEGE	IRON	
ODDS	ADDER	ESPY	

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1/31/14

5 Rogers and Kennedy
6 "...four and 20 blackbirds baked in ____"
7 Loch ____; home for a monster
8 Teach
9 Santa's vehicle
10 Grassy area
11 Like 2, 4 and 6
12 Armed conflicts
14 Faucets
21 Longest river
25 Bit of soot
26 Rings out
27 Extraterrestrial
28 CB device
29 Harbor towns
30 Defeat
31 Build
32 Be generous
33 By the same ____; likewise
35 Rain cats and dogs
38 At any time
39 More aggressive
41 Mineral spring
42 Go on and on
44 Bodies of water
45 "Messiah" composer
47 Canada's migratory birds
48 Indian prince
49 Common metal

50 College official
52 Tender to the touch
53 Q-tip, for one
54 Chimpanzees and gorillas
55 Out of ____; misbehaving
Felon, for short

From Muppets to puppies, Super Bowl ads to get cute

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Call it Cute Bowl.

Adorable is the name of the game this year as Super Bowl advertisers try to grab your attention. That means lots of "cute" story lines, including a family that's expecting a new baby and a horse that forms a long-lasting bond with a puppy. The saccharine spots are partly a result of more family-friendly brands like Cheerios and Heinz advertising this year. At the same time, fewer startups that tend to have more provocative commercials are in the advertising game this year. The trend also is a sign of the times. After widespread criticism of more racy or gross-out ads in recent years, companies are being more careful not to offend the more than 108 million viewers who are expected to tune in on Sunday to watch the annual championship game of the National Football League. That's increasingly important given their large investment. A 30-second Super Bowl spot goes an estimated \$4 million.

"People want nostalgia and fun and escape," said Barbara Lippert, a columnist at Mediapost, trade

publication for the media industry.

Here are five "cute" commercials to watch for:

(1) Anheuser Busch's "Puppy Love" ad shows its iconic Clydesdales bonding with a cute Labrador puppy. The two try desperately to reconnect with each other after their first meeting.

(2) Cheerios is showcasing the same biracial little girl and her parents that were in another ad that debuted last year. The company faced racist comments online when last year's ad was rolled out, but says the overwhelming response was positive.

So Cheerios is bringing the family back in its first Super Bowl ad. In the spot, the father tells his daughter that they're going to have an addition to the family, a baby boy. Then, the little girl strongly suggests they also get a puppy.

"We just fell in love with this family and the big game provided another opportunity to tell a story about family love," says Camille Gibson, vice president of marketing for Cheerios.

(3) CarMax's "Slow Clap" Super Bowl ad shows denizens of a small town congratulating a car buyer with a slow clap. □

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Monarch butterflies drop, migration may disappear

MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The stunning and little-understood annual migration of millions of Monarch butterflies to spend the winter in Mexico is in danger of disappearing, experts said Wednesday, after numbers dropped to their lowest level since record-keeping began in 1993.

Their report blamed the displacement of the milkweed the species feeds on by genetically modified crops and urban sprawl in the United States, extreme weather trends and the dramatic reduction of the butterflies' habitat in Mexico due to illegal logging of the trees they depend on for shelter.

After steep and steady declines in the previous three years, the black-and-orange butterflies now cover only 1.65 acres (0.67 hectares) in the pine and fir forests west of Mexico City, compared to 2.93 acres (1.19 hectares) last year, said the report released by the World Wildlife Fund, Mexico's Environment Department and the Natural Protected Areas Commission. They covered more than 44.5 acres (18 hectares) at their recorded peak in 1996.

Because the butterflies clump together by the thousands in trees, they are counted by the area they cover.

While the Monarch is not in danger of extinction, the decline in their population now marks a statistical long-term trend and can no longer be seen as a combination of yearly or seasonal events, experts said.

The announcement followed on the heels of the 20th anniversary of the



In this March 13, 2005 file photo, Monarch butterflies gather on a tree at the El Rosario Butterfly Sanctuary near Angangueo, Mexico.

Associated Press

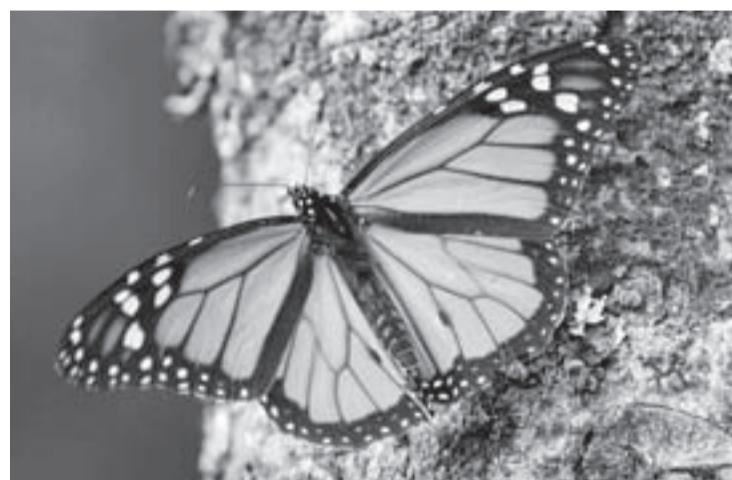
North American Free Trade Agreement, which saw the United States, Mexico and Canada sign environmental accords to protect migratory species such as the Monarch. At the time, the butterfly was adopted as the symbol of trilateral cooperation.

"Twenty years after the signing of NAFTA, the Monarch migration, the symbol of the three countries' cooperation, is at serious risk of disappearing," said Omar Vidal, the World Wildlife Fund director in Mexico. Lincoln Brower, a leading entomologist at Sweet Briar College in Virginia, wrote that "the migration is definitely proving to be an endangered biological phenomenon."

"The main culprit," he wrote in an email, is now genetically modified "herbicide-resistant corn and soybean crops and herbicides in the USA," which "leads to the wholesale killing of the monarch's principal food plant, common milkweed." While

Mexico has made headway in reducing logging in the officially protected winter reserve, that alone cannot save the migration, wrote Karen Oberhauser, a professor at the University of Minnesota. She noted that studies indicate that the U.S. Midwest is where most of the butterflies migrate from. "A large part of their reproductive habi-

luca, a city a few dozen miles from the butterfly reserve. "I think President Obama should take some step to support the survival of the Monarch butterflies," said writer and environmentalist Homero Aridjis. "The governments of the United States and Canada have washed their hands of the problem, and left it all to Mexico."



tat in that region has been lost due to changes in agricultural practices, mainly the explosive growth in the use of herbicide-tolerant crops," Oberhauser said. Extreme weather — severe cold snaps, unusually heavy rains or droughts in all three countries — have also apparently played a role in the decline.

But the milkweed issue now places the spotlight firmly on the United States and President Barack Obama, who is scheduled to visit Mexico on Feb. 19, with events scheduled for To-

ter winters. There is also another smaller migration route that takes butterflies from the west to the coast of California, but that has registered even steeper declines.

Oberhauser noted that some Monarchs now appear to be wintering along the U.S. Gulf coast, and there has been a movement in the United States among gardeners and home owners to plant milkweed to replace some of the lost habitat. But activists say large stands of milkweed are needed along the migratory route, comparable to what once grew there. They also want local authorities in the U.S. and Canada to alter mowing schedules in parks and public spaces, to avoid cutting down milkweed during breeding seasons. The migration is an inherited trait. No butterfly lives to make the full round-trip, and it is unclear how they remember the route back to the same patch of forest each year, a journey of thousands of miles to a forest reserve that covers 193,000 acres (56,259-hectares) in central Mexico. Some scientists think the huge masses of migrating butterflies may release chemicals that mark the migratory path and that if their numbers fall low enough, not enough chemical traces would remain and the route-marking might no longer work. The human inhabitants of the reserve had already noted a historic change, as early as the Nov. 1-2 Day of the Dead holiday, when the butterflies usually arrive. "They were part of the landscape of the Day of the Dead, when you could see them flitting around the graveyards," said Gloria Tavera, the director of the reserve. "This year was the first time in memory that they weren't there." Losing the butterflies would be a blow for people such as Adolfo Rivera, a 55-year-old farmer from the town of Los Saucos who works as a guide for tourists in the Piedra Herrada wintering ground. □

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PepsiCo holding benefit for veterans

NEW YORK (AP) — PepsiCo Inc. is making a \$1 million donation and streaming a live concert Friday to benefit injured military veterans and their families.

The company said it would stream a show featuring comic Jon Stewart and country star Blake Shelton online at 9:45 p.m. EST. The show will take place at a temporary venue built for the company in Manhattan's Bryant Park in connection with Super Bowl festivities.

The PepsiCo Foundation is making the donation to the Bob Woodruff Foundation, the organization that

aids injured veterans named for the ABC News journalist who was severely injured by a roadside bomb in Iraq. The event will be streamed at www.pepsi.com. Viewers can click a button on the site to donate to Woodruff's foundation.



Blake Shelton performs during rehearsals for the 56th Annual Grammy Awards at The Staples Center, on Friday, Jan. 24, 2014 in Los Angeles.

Associated Press



This Feb. 22, 2012 file photo shows CNN's John King before the Republican presidential candidates debate in Mesa, Ariz.

Associated Press

CNN's King to report Sunday political show

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN is reviving its "Inside Politics" show with John King as host and adding it to the network's Sunday morning lineup.

The network said Thursday that the 30-minute "Inside Politics" show will air at 8:30 a.m. ET and debut this weekend. The show previously aired on CNN from 1988 to 2005. King was CNN's lead reporter for the last two presidential campaigns. The network's Washington bureau chief, Sam Feist, called him the ideal reporter to track politics as Americans begin to think about their next president. King hosted an evening show at CNN that failed because of low ratings.

Oxfam accepts Scarlett Johansson's resignation

GREGORY KATZ

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A growing movement to boycott goods produced in Jewish settlements in Palestinian territories has cost American actress Scarlett Johansson her role as a global goodwill ambassador for Oxfam International.

The star of "Her" and other major films riled Oxfam by promoting SodaStream, which operates in a Jewish settlement in the West Bank. She will appear in a high profile ad for the company set to air during the Super Bowl Sunday.

Oxfam International said Thursday that Johansson's role with SodaStream was incompatible with her Oxfam position. The charity first voiced unhappiness with her dual role last week. The international humanitarian organization said Thursday that it believes SodaStream and other businesses operating in Israeli settlements in the West Bank contribute to the "denial of rights of the Palestinian communities that we work to support."

The charity said it opposes



In this Sept. 3, 2013 file photo, actress Scarlett Johansson poses for photographers on the red carpet for the screening of the film "Under The Skin" at the 70th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy. Associated Press

all trade from the Israeli settlements, "which are illegal under international law."

Oxfam's statement followed Johansson's announcement Wednesday that she was resigning her Oxfam position because of a "fundamental difference of opinion."

Some 550,000 Israelis live in settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, lands Israel captured in 1967, along with the Gaza Strip. The Palestinians seek

all three territories for a future state.

Pro-Palestinian activists who advocate consumer boycotts of goods produced in Jewish settlements — which are deemed illegal by much of the international community — have encouraged the public to shun SodaStream. The company's main plant is in an Israeli industrial zone next to the settlement of Maaleh Adumim in the West Bank.

Elton John, Lady Gaga get GLAAD Media Award bids



American actors Jared Leto and Matthew McConaughey pose for photographers at Dallas Buyers Club's UK Premiere at the Washington Mayfair Hotel, on Wednesday Jan. 29, 2014, in London.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Elton John, Lady Gaga and the movie "Dallas Buyers Club" are among the nominees for awards presented by the gay advocacy group GLAAD.

The 25th annual GLAAD Media Awards honor outstanding images of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in categories including music, movies, TV and journalism.

On Thursday, GLAAD announced 93 nominees in the English-language categories, with cable channels earning 28 bids and broadcast networks receiving 11. Netflix earned its first nomination for the series "Orange Is the New Black."

There are 37 Spanish-language nominees, including a stand-alone bid in the novella category for Univision's "Amores Verdaderos," which included the wedding of a gay couple.

The GLAAD Media Awards will be presented in Los Angeles and New York this spring.

TCM doc shows conditional love for Oscar

Associated Press

At first flicker, the Turner Classic Movies documentary "And the Oscar Goes To ..." appears to be little more than a promotional film for the Academy Awards.

It is, after all, an inside job: co-directed by Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences members Jeffrey Friedman and Robert Epstein, who is also a two-time Oscar winner and an Academy governor. And the work, which debuts Saturday at 8 p.m. EST on TCM, was produced with cooperation from its subject, the Academy itself.

But just when the film starts to be too reverential or overly celebratory, along comes a chapter about the academy's sometimes embarrassing past, followed by additional scattered criticism to offset the cheers.

While the academy and TCM were partners on the Oscar documentary, "We had final cut on the film," explained Epstein ("The Times of Harvey Milk") in a recent interview. "We wanted to tell the history as truthfully as we saw it." Epstein and Friedman got the idea for the film when they came across film footage of actress Jane Fonda backstage talking with media after winning her best-actress Oscar for



In this Friday, Jan. 24, 2014 photo, Directors Jeffrey Friedman, left, and Rob Epstein pose for a portrait during an interview in Los Angeles. Their latest film, "And the Oscar Goes To ...," documents the history and current significance of the Academy Awards, and debuts Saturday, Feb. 1, 2014, 8 p.m. ET on Turner Classic Movies (TCM).

Associated Press

the 1971 drama "Klute." Many had expected Fonda, an outspoken critic of the Vietnam War, to say something about the conflict in her acceptance speech.

But she did not. After her win, she told reporters that she didn't need to mention the "murders being committed in our name in Indochina. And I think everyone out there is as aware of it as I am," she explained.

"That was really the moment that really crystal-

ized this whole project for us," said Epstein, who explained the clip inspired how he and Friedman would tell Oscar's story. "We thought, 'We have to find a way to tell this bigger story from the perspective of the people who are living out this experience,' and there are so many layers to that experience."

Fonda, Helen Mirren, Cher, Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg are among those who granted the documentarians inter-

views, and reflected on the magic and mayhem of being an Oscar nominee, and winner.

Gold was also mined from the motion picture academy's vaults, with the academy giving the filmmakers "carte blanche," including footage not seen, or not seen in extended versions, since the original showing.

There's an 86-year-old clip of an Oscar presentation to the first best-actress winner, Janet Gaynor. There's a hilarious speech by actress Hermoine Gingold, accepting on behalf of the screenwriters of the 1956 epic "Around the World in 80 Days."

And there's a soundbite from a young Angelina Jolie, on the red carpet with father Jon Voight. A reporter asks her, "Actress?" Jolie, wearing braces, smiles nervously and says, "Not really."

The serious stuff includes a mention of the academy's earliest days, which included a brief period where it supported studios' efforts against workers' unions. There's a more extensive section about the Academy's denial of Oscars, even credits, to screenwriters on Sen.

Joseph McCarthy's so-called "blacklist."

Whoopi Goldberg makes a powerful statement about the 24-year gap between Oscar wins for black actors, the first going to actress Hattie McDaniel in "Gone with the Wind" (1939), and next to actor Sidney Poitier for "Lilies of the Field" (1963).

"There's a lot of white people in between," Goldberg noted, with a chuckle of disbelief. "That's a long time."

"And the Oscar Goes To ..." also acknowledges what could be the most consistent criticism of the Academy Awards: How they've turned artistic achievement into a competition.

"I could feel this hunger and grasping I didn't like," actress Ellen Burstyn says in the film, which shows her sitting in the audience as her category is being presented the year she won for the 1974 dramedy "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore."

Burstyn goes on to say of fellow nominee Gena Rowlands' performance in "A Woman Under the Influence":

"That's an Academy Award-winning part. (Just) not my award."

Since the Oscars were created 86 years ago, countless critics, guild and other shows have emerged to create an entire awards season in Hollywood and throughout the world.

And yet the film's directors said the Academy Awards remains The Big Show of the movie-award statuettes.

"Well, the Oscars were first," Friedman noted. "They were the ones that set the tone (86) years ago, and it's retained that glow over time."

Added Epstein, "I think the Academy has done a good job of keeping the yin and yang of the glam factor and the real, and the fact that both of those things really do co-exist as part of the Oscar experience. I think that that's part of the magic of it." □

Report: Bieber had pot, Xanax in system at arrest

MIAMI (AP) — A preliminary toxicology report shows that Justin Bieber tested positive for marijuana and the anti-anxiety drug Xanax after his arrest last week in South Florida. The report released Thursday also shows no presence of other illicit drugs in Bieber's system, such as cocaine or oxycodone. The 19-year-old pop star was arrested last week on Miami Beach on charges of DUI, resisting arrest and

having an expired driver's license.

Bieber has pleaded not guilty but told police after his arrest last week that he had been smoking marijuana and took a prescription drug.

A previous police report found that breath tests placed Bieber's blood-alcohol content below the .02 level considered intoxicated for under-21 drivers. Bieber was stopped after police suspected he



This police booking mug made available by the Miami Dade County Corrections Department shows pop star Justin Bieber, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014.

Associated Press

and another driver were drag racing exotic sports cars. □

Denver's Reefer Gladness



MAUREEN DOWD

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DENVER - So you want to get high in a high-end way in the Mile High City.

You could call Dale Dyke and his wife, Chastity Osborn, a massage therapist, who run Get High Getaways. They gutted their brick house in Bel Mar and let it go to pot, refashioning it as a clothing optional, or as Dale calls it, "textile optional" bed-and-breakfast. They're still waiting for their first big booking, but Chastity says they're busily adding amenities to create a "resort environment," like a stone labyrinth with a tether ball, a camera in the living room to Skype your friends stoned, an outdoor swing "where you can have a good time and catch a buzz," and "maybe a nerf horseshoe court."

They charge \$199 per person per night - you have to be over 21 - and offer two rooms, 24/7 car service and a hot tub. They can give, rather than sell, their home-grown pot to guests.

Chastity will even serve her marijuana-infused "yummies" textile-free, if you like. (The couple are proud members of the American Association for Nude Recreation.) "We want the higher-end clientele," the 38-year-old Chastity says. "Comedians. Adult film entertainers. Musicians."

Dale chimes in: "We're trying to keep stoned tourists from getting lost in Denver and causing mayhem. Our motto is 'Don't come on vacation and leave on probation.'"

The blooming pot industry here is still more seedy than glossy. Yet the budding bud growers are eager to help Denver elude the stigma of Rocky Mountain Low, a shadowy place overrun by "The Dude Abides" hippies and Jeff Spicoli stoners.

"People are learning not to be ashamed," the 45-year-old Dyke said. "No more talking in whispers. We're moving away from the image of dumb stoner teenagers to older successful businesspeople who can admit they're stoners."

They want it to be a better Amsterdam. "That whole city," Dyke said, "smells like pot."

Some relatives are still leery. "My mom won't befriend me on Facebook," Chastity says.

But they are thrilled to be part of the huge social experiment transforming Colorado as jittery politicians press on the gas and brake at the same time, state government builds a regulatory system from scratch, entrepreneurs deal in "Breaking Bad" cash, and towns decide if they will allow retail pot stores (Aspen) or not (Vail). □

"We want to be the Napa Valley and the Silicon Valley of weed," says Matt Brown, who co-founded My 420 Tours, which will shepherd guests to marijuana-friendly hotels and host special events like Stoner Bowl and a Valentine's Weekend Tour that includes a "Threesome With Mary Jane" party and a trip to glass blowers, where couples can design their own bongs.

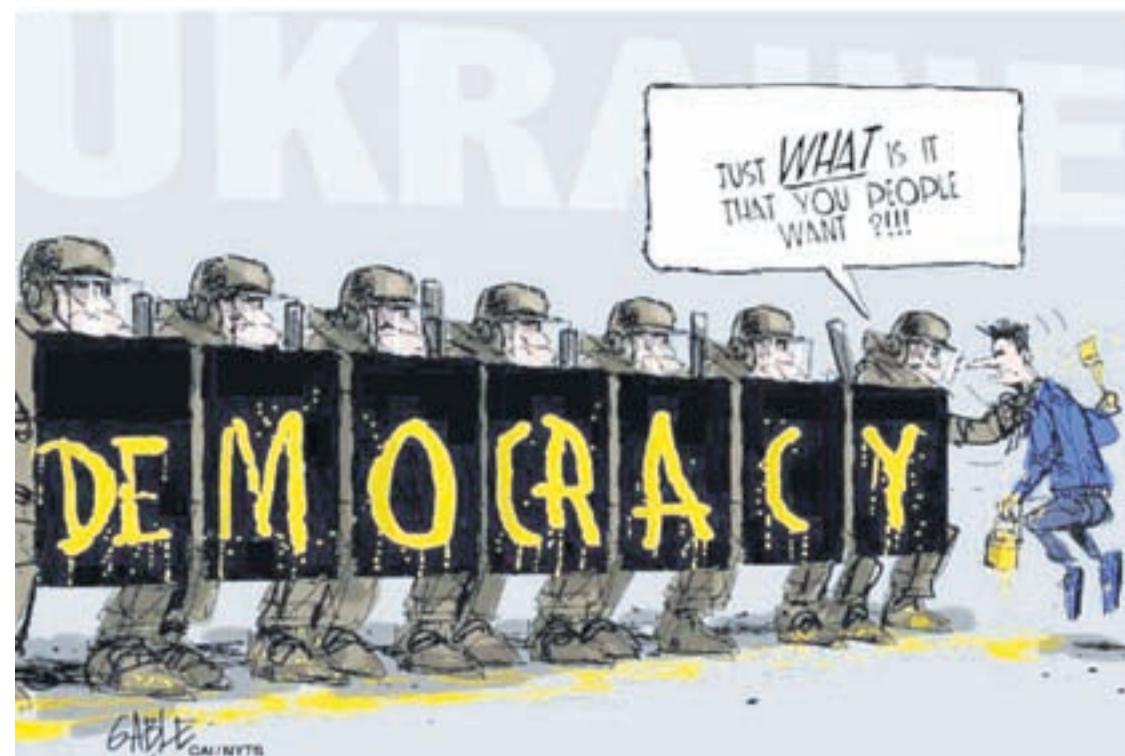
Could there be a Facebook effect, where young people lose interest as older people rush in? "There is something not cool about a 22-year-old," the 31-year-old Brown admits, "who has to wait in line for an hour with people his parents' age." Much less his grandparents' age.

Now that Coloradans can buy recreational pot, the mood has shifted from self-consciously therapeutic, medicating "patients," to self-consciously scientific and capitalistic, serving consumers. "Education managers" in white lab coats and marketing executives in suits are swarming in. Many use the more formal term cannabis and refer to themselves loftily as "the 420 community," so intent on setting a good example they could be Shakers. "I don't want to use the word 'pot' or 'weed' or 'smoke' or 'joint,'" says a pretty 37-year-old event planner who uses the nom de pot Jane West (Mary Jane in the West) and owns a company called Edible Events. "If we redefine it as consuming cannabis, then maybe people will be more open to that. There are only so many hoodie-wearing stoners in town. This needs to be opened up to other demographics." West is especially interested in wooing women, getting them to equate cannabis with a glass of wine. "Many women think it's something that makes you dumb," she says, arguing that women should leave the Valley of the Dolls - anti-anxiety pills and Ambien - and switch to "the Napa Valley of cannabis."

She wants to arrange corporate events, but concedes she may only attract cannabis corporations for a while. Her first big party, aptly held at the (nonsmoking) Space Gallery, was Friday night. Guests could "blaze," as West put it, in a bus parked outside, which she had decorated with peacock feathers so it would look less "cheesy." They could smoke, vape and nosh on savories soaked in sauce and cream to alleviate dry mouth. "Munchies for foodies," she calls it.

At a warehouse under construction in a spot that used to be a bakery, Dixie Elixirs is cooking up edible, drinkable and topical pot treats, trying to become the Coke of toking. With a big foil-covered Willy Wonka machine, they extract the THC from the plant and whip up products from chocolate truffles to bath soaks to massage oil, all in modern silvery packaging meant to scream "safe."

Nonetheless, Denver is the Wild West of weed. And things will be confusing, evolving and dicey for some time. As Dixie Elixirs Chief Operating Officer Chuck Smith tells his team, "We're building the airplane while we're flying it." □



From Your Friends At The NRA



JOE NOCERA

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The following are verbatim excerpts from emails sent by the National Rifle Association.

Sept. 12, 2013

Subject: Obama wants to ban guns, but N.R.A. is giving guns away!

Announcing N.R.A.'s "BANNED GUNS RAFFLE." Your chance to win 12 guns that Obama, Biden, Feinstein and Bloomberg want to Ban! 12 great guns - 12 chances to win! (Hurry - raffle ends October 21, 2013.)

Sept. 12

Subject: N.R.A. Hearing Benefits September Newsletter.

N.R.A. Hearing Benefits offers its members free annual hearing screenings and incredible hearing aid discounts on the latest hearing technology.

Sept. 25

Subject: NEW VIDEOS: Defensive Shooting Standards Drill, Fundamentals of Home Defense, and More.

Thinking ahead of time about the five fundamentals of home defense will empower you to respond more efficiently if you ever experience a threat entering or attempting to enter your home. WATCH NOW

Sept. 26

Subject: Obama Signs U.N. Gun Ban Treaty

You know what this means. Now Obama and the U.N. are one BIG step closer to wiping out our Second Amendment freedom, our national sovereignty, and our American rule of law. ... once

and for all. Only you and I can stop Obama and the U.N., but we have to act NOW.

Oct. 1

Subject: Your N.R.A. Member Benefit

Dear N.R.A. member: N.R.A. thinks the best way to shop for Life Insurance is through Life Insurance Central(TM). That's because as an N.R.A. Member, Life Insurance Central(TM) helps you, and your family continue to live as they do now, should a fatal accident occur. Get a NO-COST FAST COMPARISON QUOTE!

Oct. 2

Subject: Save 10% on N.R.A. Christmas Cards!

Your purchase makes a difference. National Rifle Association receives a portion of all product sales.

Oct. 29

Subject: He thinks he can buy your freedom

New York City billionaire Mayor Michael Bloomberg is on an all-out mission to buy the U.S. Congress so that Barack Obama can ban your guns.

And if you and I don't take immediate action to stop him, he'll get away with it. That's why I'm asking you to sign this Voter Pledge the moment you get the chance. ... It is our job to make Bloomberg and his money TOXIC to every candidate running for office ... and it all starts with your signed Voter Pledge TODAY

Dec. 12

Subject: Congrats N.R.A. Member: You've been selected to get 72% off PDN (Personal Defense Network) Premium Membership

An increase in smaller-framed defensive pistol choices has made Appendix Inside-the-Waistband (IWB) Carry an increasingly common form of firearm concealment. Compared to traditional hip-carry positions, Appendix Carry requires some critical adjustments in the technique for drawing and presenting the firearm.

A recently-released PDN Training Module, specifically for Appendix Carry, led by PDN Managing Editor Rob Pincus, breaks down critical aspects of Appendix IWB Carry.

Jan. 16, 2014

Subject: A horrifying photo

We Have To Stop This NOW. The scene above isn't from a foreign country. It's happening right here in America. Law-abiding citizens in Connecticut are being forced to line up and register their firearms with the government. How long do you think it will be before anti-gun politicians turn these REGISTERED firearms into BANNED and CONFISCATED firearms? If this can happen anywhere in America, it can happen EVERYWHERE.

Jan. 23

Subject: 3 Stories. 6 Lives. 4 Accidents. 1 Solution.

What can you carry in your pocket that can be as powerful as your gun? Frankly, it's a card with your name on it. And a phone number. A number that will mobilize your personal "Medical Team" to come to your aid, any time day or night, anywhere in the world if you're traveling and suddenly land in the hospital. ...

Thanks to the N.R.A.'s incredible influence and buying power, you now have access to ... 60 response centers around the world, over 1,500 air ambulances worldwide, medical teams responsible for continual monitoring of your health around the world if you should require medical attention. 40,000 N.R.A. MEMBERS TRUST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PLUS.

Jan. 27

Subject: Did you get my last email?

I recently sent you an email to alert you that your N.R.A. membership is about to expire ... To renew, simply click here to pay your membership dues ... and take advantage of our \$2 discount for renewing online today. With our Second Amendment rights on the line like never before, it is critically important that leading N.R.A. members like you send a message to politicians in every corner of the country that every N.R.A. member stands ready to defend our freedoms. Your personal renewal commitment in 2014 sends that message loud and clear.

And, N.R.A. membership gives you great benefits that you can't get anywhere else.

Yours in Liberty, Wayne LaPierre
Executive Vice President, N.R.A. □



Ben Nix, right, who is in charge of traveling with and guarding the Super Bowl's Vince Lombardi trophy while it's in New York, hands the trophy to New York Giants defensive end Justin Tuck at Times Square in New York, Jan. 29, 2014. The trophy was placed in a pavilion in Times Square for viewing.

(Chang W. Lee/The New York Times)

White-Glove Treatment for Super Bowl Trophy

JAMES BARRON

© 2014 New York Times

NEW YORK - Justin Tuck said the gloves were too small. Ben Nix had not mentioned that. All he had said, earlier, was, "I catch a little flak from my colleagues for wearing the gloves."

It took two football players - Tuck, a defensive end with the New York Giants, and Nix, who played for Texas Christian University and is now a security official with the National Football League - on Wednesday to deliver the Vince Lombardi Trophy to a display area on the stretch of Broadway in Manhattan that has been renamed Super Bowl Boulevard. And the gloves, which are white and made of cotton, were necessary because the trophy's shiny surface attracts fingerprints as surely as the trophy itself attracts adulation.

Nix is the NFL official respon-

sible for the trophy until someone wins it in the Super Bowl.

Unlike, say, the Stanley Cup, of which there is only one, a Lombardi Trophy is made every year by silversmiths at a Tiffany & Co. workshop in New Jersey. Nix picked it up at the jeweler's famous store, emerging with probably one of the largest items that anyone has ever carried out of Tiffany - a box with two latches, a lock and handles.

Many have dreamed of walking out of Tiffany carrying something so large it would deplete a bank account. They have wondered if Tiffany made one of those soft-cloth bags the color of a robin's egg that big.

But only once has Nix gone on a shopping spree in his years of tending to the trophy, and by Tiffany standards, it was not much of

a spree. He bought a red heart for his wife.

"I don't know what it was made of," he said. "It wasn't diamonds or anything. Glass, or something. It wasn't very expensive. But it came in a little blue box. Made a hit when I got home."

After trophy duty at eight Super Bowls, Nix has a routine. He stays deep inside the stadium. "I watch a little bit of the game, but not much," he said.

"Sometimes, they have contests where the winner comes in in the fourth quarter, puts on the gloves and holds the trophy."

About four minutes before the end, he picks up the 22-inch-tall trophy and heads for the field, where he hands it to the presenter, a Hall of Fame star whose job is to hand it to the NFL commissioner, Roger Goodell.

"It's sturdy," Nix said. "It's well-balanced. You hold it like a baby."

He has had practice with babies. He has three children and nine grandchildren.

He also has had practice with fingerprints on the trophy. "One year, I don't remember where it was and I don't remember which network, they wanted shots of the players with the trophy before the game," Nix recalled.

"I said: 'You need to keep them from touching it. It fingerprints easily.' The first player came in and grabbed it. They all grabbed it. It was a mess. We had to send it back to Tiffany because we didn't have the right cloth. Now we do."

On Wednesday, he walked out of a side door at Tiffany. He rounded the corner onto Fifth Avenue, where

a FedEx truck was waiting to take him and the trophy to Times Square. "We don't throw it in the trunk of a yellow cab," he said.

When the truck reached Times Square, Tuck struggled with the ill-fitting white gloves.

Nix lifted the trophy out of the blue bag, and Tuck - who said later that he had been "nervous about dropping it" - carried it past a marching band and into the display area.

"It feels so much heavier than 7 pounds," Tuck said. "Everyone knows what that trophy means, and I can always tell whoever wins on Sunday that I touched it before they did."

And then the too-small gloves came off. It was cold in the display area. Tuck put his own gloves on. He said they were extra-extra large. □